THURSDAY
December 19, 2024

BENGALURU
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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 55 • No. 301

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SURPRISE EXIT

Ashwin, India's spin wizard, calls it a day

SPORT & OPINION PAGES

HONOURS EVEN

Rain-hit Brisbane Test ends in a draw

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BEYOND EVMs

EC has a lot to answer for in conduct of polls

Opposition parties are ignoring serious issues

EDITORIAL » PAGE 12

PROTEST MODE

Parliament stalled over Shah's remarks

NEWS » PAGE 15

NEARBY

'Govt. will not disturb temples on waqf land'

BELAGAVI
Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said in the Assembly on Wednesday that the government will issue khatas for Hindu temples in the name of the respective temple even if they are located on waqf property. » Page 8

Pedestrian signals get timers

BENGALURU
Just like timers for traffic signals, the traffic police have installed timers for pedestrian signals in some parts of the city. These timers have been installed in 165 signals under the AI-powered Adaptive Traffic Control System. » Page 5

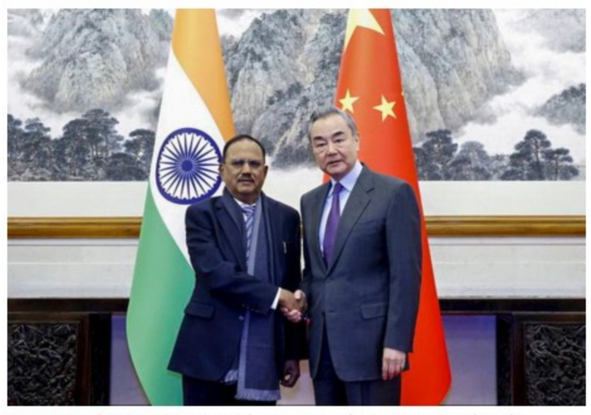
Positive signals emerge from India-China talks

India, China take part in first meeting of Special Representatives in five years; Doval and Wang affirm outcome of LAC disengagement, discuss resumption of Mansarovar yatra, border trade

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and China "positively affirmed" the outcome of their disengagement agreement on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), as National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on Wednesday for the first boundary talks between the Special Representatives (SRs) since 2019.

During the talks, Mr. Doval and Mr. Wang said that it was important to "draw from the lessons" of the four-year-long military stand-off at the LAC, in order to maintain peace and tranquillity on the border. They also discussed other ties that were derailed due to the frictions at the boundary, providing "positive directions" for cross-border exchanges, including the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage from India to Tibet, data sharing on trans-border rivers, and border trade.



One step forward: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Beijing on Wednesday. PTI

A statement issued by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Mr. Doval and Mr. Wang held "substantive discussions" during the Special Representatives dialogue and reached a "six-point consensus", which would see efforts to maintain peace at the borders and develop bilateral relations.

While the Ministry of External Affairs did not refer to a "six-point" consensus, it reiterated most of the same points on promoting exchanges.

No talk of direct flights

Significantly, in the statement issued after the talks, the SRs did not refer to the resumption of direct flights and the restoration of journalist exchanges, which were discussed when Mr. Wang met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Rio de Janeiro last month.

However, after a meeting between Mr. Doval and Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng in Beijing, an official readout stressed the need to restore exchanges in "economic, cultural and trade" areas.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Priyank takes issue with 'judicial activism'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday expressed concern over what he called courts taking up legislative and executive work in the name of "judicial activism".

The issue came up when Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao told the Opposition members, during a debate on maternal deaths in a government hospital in Ballari, that a company had been blacklisted for supply of sub-standard drugs. However, the company had managed to get a stay through a district court, and hence, the drug had been accepted by the government in its hospitals.

Intervening on the occasion, Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani said, "It is unfortunate that courts intervene even in such matters."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

13 killed after Navy boat crashes into ferry off Mumbai

Fatal trial: A video grab of the Navy boat moments before it crashed into a ferry off the Mumbai coast on Wednesday. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Thirteen persons, including two children, were killed after a Navy boat crashed into a ferry off the Mumbai coast on Wednesday, the Navy said. At least 101 persons were rescued.

A Navy man and two others on board the Navy vessel were among the deceased.

The incident took place around 4 p.m. when the Navy craft, undergoing engine trials, lost control and collided with the passenger ferry, *Neel Kamal*, off Karanja near Mumbai, the Navy said in a statement. The ferry was carrying passengers to the Elephanta Island, a popular tourist destination.

According to a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation official, at least four passengers are in a critical condition.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Gukesh's impact will be effective with support from corporates

Huge money is being spent by millions of parents on cricket coaching. That is not going to happen in that great numbers in chess. Because somewhere that type of atmosphere has not been created. We need to create a system wherein the top 300-400 youngsters get free coaching, the system being supported by sponsors

PHOTOS: M. KARUNAKARAN, FIDE, PTI & CH. VIJAYA BHASKAR

INTERVIEW

PRAVIN THIPSAY

G. Viswanath

D. Gukesh, just 18, won the World chess championship in Singapore after beating China's Ding Liren in a 14-game contest that went the distance. Gukesh, as predicted by many, got the better of Ding playing a style of chess that was perhaps not his own, according to Grandmaster Pravin Thipsay. *Excerpts:*

How would you distinguish the two feats of Anand, who won five World titles, and Gukesh?

Anand won the World junior championship title in 1987 when he was 17. He became a Grandmaster in 1988 and then, in 2000, won the World Championship for the first time. Anand had a different journey. But both players are unique in their own way. They have unique styles.

Perhaps Anand's path be traced back to some way in the past, some similar styles, a great attacking master like Alekhine or Bobby Fischer. Gukesh has greater originality, his style is like Karpov's. It was more difficult to be the champion in Anand's time.

The opportunities were less, airfares were very expensive, participating in tournaments abroad was not possible, training was not available, there were no computers, and material was not available.

So, the challenges faced by Anand, or rather our generation, were utterly different from those faced by Gukesh. When Anand became an International Master, he had hardly played 200 games, whereas I think Gukesh must have played 200 games when he was very young.

Anand more or less played an aggressive style, whereas Gukesh's style is more balanced. He is good at defence too.

They were different in originality and creativity. Gukesh is more open to ideas from different parts of the game. He is sort of an expert in more fields in a game than Anand, who is a great natural talent. In that aspect, Gukesh is not equal, but he has a number of aspects of the game; his defence is superior and he is more or less like a young Karpov.

Anand was already in the top five at the age of 21 or thereabouts, and Gukesh is three years younger. As you see, there are benefits of being young; they have competitive advantages. But even then, all the other youngsters are not emerging up to expectations.

Was 1988 breakthrough year, with Anand becoming the first Indian Grandmaster?

Even before that, winning the World junior title was not great just for India alone. He was the first Asian to win any World championship in chess, so it was a breakthrough for Asia itself. Now we saw two Asians competing for the World championship, for the first time ever.

How would you compare the opponents of Anand and Gukesh for the World championship matches?

Ding is a stronger player than all of Anand's opponents. The top players are stronger today than the ones twenty years back.

When Boris Gelfand played the match against Anand, both were in form. Anand had a particular style, which was very difficult to understand. It is much easier for the opponents to prepare, more challenging to progress today because everybody can hire some players.

In the earlier days if you were having a second, it had to be a powerful player who could teach you. Now you just hire a player with around an ELO rating of 2200, pay him a specific fee and ask him to analyse a specific variation on the engine, and within 30 hours or 40 hours, they give back the data saying that the engine likes this position and this move.

As a result, everybody comes prepared this way, and it's very difficult to guess the opponent's moves. And in almost every game, Gukesh caught Ding in preparation.

There is more exposure, experience and the number of hours spent on chess is more these days. Now, what you need is money to take you to

tournaments, perhaps to purchase this and that material or get authentic coaching and also to travel.

I and Anand had a lot of strategic discussions when he became GM. We were of roughly the same strength. We had a lot of debates and we played a lot of games, particularly in the Spanish Opening. We played several games in which he was better sometimes and I was better sometimes.

Things have become easier, but hard work is more important. Memory has played a more important role because if you study, and if you don't remember the variations, then it's of no use. The weapons have changed from sword or bow and arrows to bombs and guns.

Q: Anand lost the title to Magnus Carlsen in 2013 in Chennai. Was Carsen a superior player on all counts then?

A: Actually, now I can say that Magnus was a much better player at that time. I was probably biased then because I had seen Anand from childhood and also because Anand had studied Magnus' games really well. Anand was very strong then. But I had not checked his games even in 2012. I think in 2012 he played really badly the entire year. The Gelfand match was also of a very poor quality. I started respecting Carlsen and was ready to look at my views again. Then I found that it was a very one- sided match because Carlsen was the highest rated player in the world in 2010 itself, three years before the fight against Anand. And if one looks at the quality of the game or the analysis of the game, every time he was able to foresee more than Anand at that time. Even today, I must say that he is the best player in the world.

Carlsen chose not to play this and the previous World championship cycles. He cited a lack of motivation for classical chess. Can this happen to any player, even a top chess player? And has it diminished the World Championship match itself?

In a way, the importance of the World championship has been reduced because Carlsen is still very successful. Whenever he plays in important tournaments, he is able to outclass any player.

Somewhere, it's a question of motivation. And I would say more than that of patience (in classical chess) and lapse in concentration.

But he's very quick and his originality is very great. He has been World No. 1 for 14 years.

And so, how can we expect somebody else to be considered a World champion? Particularly considering Ding's low ranking and Gukesh was probably No. 5. They qualified to play the most important match in the World. But the world is going to be a little sceptical about it. Only a match between two top rated players is generally viewed as the real World championship.

Gukesh said after the win that he respects Ding and that his win doesn't mean that he is the best player in the world.

I agree with Gukesh. Ding is a very strong player and everyone respects his imagination, knowledge, creativity and accuracy, but his blunders are often subject to criticism. Gukesh certainly knows that he is stronger than Ding. When he says 'winning the championship doesn't mean that he is the best player in the world', he could be referring to not Carlsen, but also to others who are higher rated than him.

Can rapid and blitz formats affect classical chess?

Yes, I am afraid that somewhere the society is losing patience. And when you play in different time controls, and when you have got that excitement of blitz and rapid, then classical games could seem very long and boring.

Some of the players are getting addicted to blitz, not the top players though. I have seen many examples.

Look at cricket. If somebody specialises in one-day cricket, probably they will not be able to play well in Test cricket.

What will Gukesh's win do to Indian chess?

Most of the print media and a lot of TV channels have been covering the match between Gukesh and Ding. (The print media has always been supporting, but the electronic media has stopped covering chess for 10 years).

I think the interest from the public point of view, it's the electronic media that makes a game popular. And that is where I think it's going to have an impact, which is more than what Anand winning the first World championship did.

He won when there was not much electronic media.

The number of online chess players is very large. I think there are already more than 6-7 crore in India. But they are casual players.

But the impact remains. However, this impact doesn't necessarily decide the strength of a country. And here our players are strong enough, because they and their parents have sacrificed everything else in their life.

It doesn't mean that somebody else is going to do the same because the number of our players who have played in tournaments this year is only 36,000, compared to 1,06,000 before lockdown. And the number of women players is less than 10%.

Huge money is being spent by millions of parents on cricket coaching. That is not going to happen in that great numbers in chess. Because somewhere that type of atmosphere has not been created.

We need to create a system wherein the top 300-400 youngsters get free coaching, the system being supported by sponsors, the corporates. Then the 'Gukesh impact' will be really effective. Otherwise, like China (after 2018), things will evaporate.

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Labourer convicted in POCSO case sentenced to seven years

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Chickballapura district fast track court convicted a 22-year-old labourer with seven years imprisonment and a fine of ₹25,000 for allegedly attempting to rape a 14-year-old girl in his neighbourhood in Bhoomishettyhalli in Chickballapura in July 2020.

The child had gone to fetch water when the accused allegedly confronted her and dragged her into the washroom in an attempt to rape her. She managed to escape and alerted her mother.

Father of accused threatens family

Meanwhile, the father of the accused, Anjappa, allegedly confronted the victim and the family and threatened them not to complain to the police.

However, the family filed a complained with the jurisdictional Kencharahalli police station who arrested the accused charging them under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, and also for criminal intimidation.

Jail time and fine

The court convicted Kalyan, sentencing him to seven years imprisonment and a fine of ₹25,000, while Anjappa, the father was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

The court also ordered a compensation of ₹2 lakh to be given to the victim.

Drunk driving case: Woman killed, four injured in road accident in Ramanagara

Car, driven by an inebriated man, hits a bus, then an autorickshaw and two bikes before crashing into a grocery shop

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 48-year-old second division assistant of a government high school was killed and four others injured when a speeding car knocked them down in Kempegowdana Doddi in Ramanagara on Wednesday.

The deceased, H. Roopa, from Koppa village of Maddur district, was travelling in an autorickshaw along with four others. The accused driver, Praveen, was inebriated. His car hit a bus and later the autorickshaw. Under the impact, the autorickshaw crashed into a roadside shop and overturned.

The accident spot at Ramanagara; (right) the car involved in the crash. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The car driver, in a bid to escape, knocked down two more two-wheelers and crashed into another grocery shop.

Agitated passers-by chased the car, stopped it, pulled the driver out and thrashed him before handing him over to the police. The injured were taken to a nearby hospital where the doctor declared Roopa as brought dead.

The Ramanagara traffic police arrested Praveen on the charges of drunk driving, causing death due to negligence, and rash and negligent driving. Traffic was disrupted for sometime and the police used crane to pull the damaged vehicles to clear the traffic.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NO.10490168W Rank CHM Name Basavaraj Ullagaddi r/at Niralkeri (Vill), Niralkeri (Po), Bagalkot (Teh), Bagalkot (Dist), Karnataka 587111 have changed my Daughters name from Sanvi to Sanvi Basavaraj Ullagaddi vide affidavit dtd 17.12.2024 sworn before Notary Sivakumar M.N., Bluru

I, HARI Hara Nandan Reddy, S/O: Sudhakar Reddy Soma, R/O: Flat–569, C8, Kendriya Vihar Apts, Kogilu Cross, Yelahanka New Town, Blr–560064, Have Changed My Name As Soma Hari Hara Nandan Reddy vide Afdvt Dtd 12/12/2024

I, SATEESHA Muniappa & Satish Muniappa, S/o H. C.Muniyappa, R/at No. 13, Magadi Main Road, Opp.Govt. School, G.Hosahalli, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560091, have changed my name from Sateesha Muniappa & Satish Muniappa to Satish Muniyappa vide Affidavit dated 15/12/2024 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

I, SREENIVASA Bhagavan, S/o Holavanahalli Shyamiyengar Rangan, R/at No.2 1 New No.9, 1st Temple Street, 15th Corss, Near Kadumalleshwara, Bangalore-560003 have changed my name from Sreenivas Bhagwan to Sreenivasa Bhagavan vide affidavit dated 17/12/2024 sworn before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHARATH Bhagavan Sreenivasa, S/o Sreenivasa Bhagavan, R/at Flat No.206, Pavithras Shreyas Apartment No.68, 4th Main, 17th Cross Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560055 have changed my name from SHARATH BHAGWAN SHYLAJA to SHARATH BHAGAVAN SREENIVASA, vide affidavit dated 17/12/2024 sworn before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

WE, S Kumarvel and C Jayalakshmi, r/at #5/1, Sri Sai Nilaya, 3rd Main, 1st Street, Manjunatha Layout, Basavanpura Main Road, KR Puram, Bengaluru 36 have changed our daughter's name from Sai Hasini K to Haasini Lakshmi Sai vide affidavit dtd 21.10.2024 sworn before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, Bluru

I, RAJESWARAMMA, W/O: Soma Hari Hara Nandan Reddy, R/O: Flat–569, C8, Kendriya Vihar Apts, Kogilu Cross, Yelahanka New Town, Blr–560064, Have Changed My Name As Rajeswaramma Madduru vide Afdvt Dtd 12/12/2024

I, KONADA Gopika, W/o Srinivasa Rao, R/at Flat G02, Vandana Eastwoods Apartment, Somasundarapalya, HSR Layout, Bengaluru-560102 have changed my name from Garikina Gopamma to Konada Gopika vide Affidavit dated 17/12/2024 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

EXHIBITION / EVENTS FAIR

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PROFORMA 10-01
INDIAN RAILWAYS

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the South Western Railway, that 25000 Volts, 50 Hz AC, overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date, the overhead traction line shall be treated as **LIVE** at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line in **Penukonda (PKD) (Excl) to Makajipalli Yard (MKJ) (Incl).**

Sl. No.	Section	Chainage in KM		Probable Date of Energization
1.	Penukonda (PKD) (Excl) to Makajipalli Yard (MKJ) (Incl)	137/202.50	149/839.00	07.01.2025
2.	New proposed Road No. 5 (Goods loop line) including Ballast siding at Makajipalli Yard (MKJ).	147/679.50	148/736.50	07.01.2025
3.	New Proposed Common Loop Line at Makajipalli Yard (Rd. No. 4)	147/553.50	148.867.00	07.01.2025
4.	New Proposed Common Loop Line (Rd. 3) to Common Loop Line (Rd. 4) Turn out towards Dharmavaram (DMM) end at Makajipalli Yard (MKJ)	148/628.50	148/853.50	07.01.2025
5.	Cross Over Penukonda (PKD)	137/391.05	137/607.50	07.01.2025
6.	Up & Down Cross Over - Penukonda End Makajipalli	147/391.50	147/724.50	07.01.2025
7.	New Goods Loop Line (Rd. 5) to Common Loop Line (Rd. 4) Turn out towards Dharmavaram (DMM) end at Makajipalli Yard (MKJ)	148/480.00	148/759.00	07.01.2025
8.	Up & Down Cross Over - Dharmavaram End (Makajipalli)	148/637.50	148/988.50	07.01.2025

PROFORMA 10-02
INDIAN RAILWAY
INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 kV TRACTION

WARNING TO ROAD USERS

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25 kV AC electric traction over the section Penukonda (Excl.) 137/202.50 km - Makajipalli Yard (Incl) 149/839.00 km of the South Western Railway, height gauges have been erected at all the level crossing with clear **maximum height 4.78m** above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire **(Contact Wire), which shall be at a height of minimum 5.5m above the rail level at level crossings.**

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.

The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows:

i. Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the railway line.
ii. Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself.
iii. Danger to fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 16.12.2024

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution, Construction
South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment - 560 046.

PUB/638/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

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ई- प्रोक्योरमेन्ट नोटिस

e – Tender reference no. BCD, SAHIBGANJ/04F2 /2024-25 Date- 17.12.2025

1. कार्य की विवरणी:–

क	योजना का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	बेबसाइट में ई–निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि	ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा खोलने का स्थान
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Renovation of 12 Court Building at Sahibganj.	161.31	325500.00	10000.00	23.12.2024 (पूर्वाहन् 10:30 बजे से)	08.01.2025 (पूर्वाहन् 10:30 बजे तक)	09.01.2025 (अपराहन् 12:30 बजे)	06 माह	ई– प्रोक्योरमेन्ट सेल, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, भवन निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची, लिंक टेंक रोड, पिन कोड–834001
2	Renovation of 12 Court Building at Rajmahal.	151.35	305500.00	10000.00					

नोट:– 1. केवल ई– निविदा ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा।
2. प्राक्कलित राशि घट बढ़ सकती है। अग्रधन की राशि परिमाण विपत्र की राशि के अनुसार होगी।
3. परिमाण विपत्र एवं EMD की राशि केवल online माध्यम से ही स्वीकार होगा। online माध्यम से किये गये भुगतान की पावति बेबसाइट पर आवश्यक रुप से अपलोड करेंगे।
4. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो सारी जबाबदेही संबंधित निविदादाता की होगी।
5. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in_ पर लॉग ऑन करे ।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
भवन प्रमंडल, साहेबगंज।

PR.NO.342283 Building(24-25):D

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Materials Management Department
Auction Programme
Notice No: 01/2025

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

Sl. No.	E-Auction Conducted By	Date of auction for the month of for January' 25			Material for auction
1	GSD/PER	10/01/25	20/01/25	30/01/25	The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue in **www.ireps.gov.in** website
2	CSSD/GOC	03/01/25	10/01/25	23/01/25	
3	SSD/PTJ	08/01/25	22/01/25	29/01/25	
4	MAS Division	03/01/25	10/01/25	23/01/25	
5	SA Division	08/01/25	10/01/25	23/01/25	
6	TVC Division	06/01/25	20/01/25	27/01/25	
7	PGT Division	07/01/25	17/01/25	28/01/25	
8	TPJ Division	07/01/25	17/01/25	28/01/25	
9	MDU Division	06/01/25	20/01/25	27/01/25	

Total no. of auction for January 2025 - 27 Nos.

Note: Surplus Diesel locos in **"as is where is condition"** may be auctioned. For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site **http:// www.ireps.gov.in ->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.**

Principal Chief Materials Manager

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 30CAMCFIREEXTINGUISHERS
Dated: 13-12-2024.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Fire Extinguishers in C&W Depots, primary maintained trains of Navalur, Belagavi, Castle Rock & Vasco da Gama of Hubballi division for a period of Two years	Rs. 28,08,113.26

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 03-01-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer
Co-ordination, Hubballi

PUB/632/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 29CAMCFIREEXTINGUISHERS
Dated: 13-12-2024.

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Fire Extinguishers in C&W Depots, primary maintained trains of Hubballi, Hosapete & Vijayapura of Hubballi division for a period of Two years	Rs. 48,45,805.70

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 03-01-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer
Co-ordination, Hubballi

PUB/633/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/72
Dated : 10-12-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(1) Extension of PF No. 1 to 450 meters with High level Platform, Platform shelter and other amenity works at Sivapur. (2) Extension / Raising of PF No. 1 and PF No. 2 & 3 with High level and other amenity works at Karadi Station.	Rs. 9,59,343.20

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 31-12-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
Mysuru

PUB/624/AAS/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 24.01.2025

Last date of EMD : 23.01.2025

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on"As is where is". "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 24.01.2025 (Sl No.1: 10.00 AM to 10.30 AM, Sl No.2: 10.30 AM to 11.00 AM)** through E-Auction underthe Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (https://baanknet.com/) e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **23.01.2025, 5.00 pm**

(₹. in lakhs)

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the Movable/ Immovable assets:	Total Dues, Type of Possession	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1	**1. M/s Amalor International Limited,** 609, 6th Floor, Hong Kong Plaza, 188, Connaught Road West Hong Kong. **2.M/s Maderamelta Reha, 3.Mr. Muniswamy Suresh Kumar**, both are residing at: No 2, MSK Square, 13th Cross, CT Bed Extn, BSK II Stage, Bangalore-560070. **Also At:** No.389 Anugraha 11th A Cross,25th Main, 41st Phase J P Nagar, Bangalore-560078. **Also At,** No 96/D, 6TH Main, 4th Cross, Jayanagar, 5th Block, Bangalore-560041. **M/s Maderamelta Reha, Also At,** No.23 Anugraha, 33rd Main, 5 B, Block, Bhavani HBCS Banagiri Nagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560085. **Mr. Muniswamy Suresh Kumar, Also At,** No 471/16, 39th Cross, 10th Main Jayanagar, 5th Block, Bangalore-560041. **4.M/s MSK Sheltrs,** No. 2, MSK Square, 13th Cross, Attimabbe Raod, CT Bed Extn, Banashankari, 2nd Stage Bangalore-560070.	All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land vide official Memorandum dated 01-02-2014 bearing reference number ALN.SR.(CHI) SAKALA 249/2013-14 by the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chikkaballapura in survey number 142 comprising of 97 Villa plots measuring 11912.35 Sq.mtr out of total extent of land measuring 5 Acre 6 Guntas and 16 Guntas of A Kharab or 22460.05 Sq.mtr (Duly excluding 10547.70 Sq.mtrs of land relinquished for civic amenities, park and road infrastructure) situated at Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District in the name M/s MSK Shelter. Boundaries of the Schedule: East By: Sy No.127 & 144, West By: Sy No. 139 & 140, North By: Sy No. 136,South By: Sy No. 145 Coordinates of the property Latitude-13.3552129, Longitude-77.6873251	Rs. 45,70,00,000 Crore as on 04.12.2024 with further interest and cost thereon Physical possession	a) ₹. 1176.57 b) ₹. 117.66 c) ₹.1.00	17.01.2025 10.00 AM to 02.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer
		All that piece and parcel of residentially converted land vide official Memorandum dated 17.09.2012 bearing reference number ALN.SR.(CHI) SAKALA 15/2012-13 issued by the office of the deputy Commissioner, Chikkaballapura in survey number 139 measuring 4 Acre 30 Guntas out of which 82 Villa Plots are formed covering a total extent of 9874.02 Sq.mtr, Situated at Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballpura Taluk, Chikkaballapura District. Boundaries of the Schedule: East By: Land in Sy. No.138, West By: Road, North By: Land in Sy. No.170, South By: Sy No. 140 Coordinates of the property Latitude-13.3557468, Longitude-77.6867369		a) ₹. 396.76 b) ₹. 39.68 c) ₹.1.00	
2	**1. Mrs. Nikita Patil** W/o. Mr. Siddharta Patil, H No.78, Swamy Vivekananda Layout, Sagar Road, Shimoga – 577 201 **2. Mrs. Nikita Patil** No.684, 5th Cross, North Block, Upkar Layout, Upkar Residency, Bangalore – 560 0563. **3. Mr. Deepak** C/o Shankar Rao, S-257, 13th Main, 4th Cross, BEL Layout, Bharath Nagar, Bangalore-560 0914. **4. Mr. Deepak** No.36, 4th Cross, Income Tax Layout, BEL Layout 2nd Stage, Bharat Nagar, Bengaluru-560 091.	Residential Flat bearing no.701, comprising of 3 BHK, in 7th floor of 'PRISTINE VARA' being built in property bearing Muncipal no. 123, situated at Infantry road, Muncipal ward no. 78 of Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru and in all approximately measuring 10397 Sq.Ft. out of 12059 Sq.Ft. and bounded by: East: Road, West: Private property, North: Infantry road and South: Private property out of which 450 sq.ft. of undivided share, right , title, interest and ownership having super built up area of 2500 Sq.Ft. and carpet area measuring 1665 sq.ft. and right to use common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common usage and one covered car parking space in basement bounded on: East: By Private property, West: By Private Property, North: Road, South: By Flat no. 702. Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.980972, Longitude- 77.601889	Rs. 69018413.64/- with further interest and cost thereon Physical possession	a) ₹. 327.51 b) ₹. 32.76 c) ₹.1.00	17.01.2025 10.00 AM to 02.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 18.12.2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 10.01.2025

Last date of EMD : 09.01.2025

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on"As is where is". "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 10.01.2025 (Sl No.1: 10.00 AM to 10.30 AM, Sl No.2: 11.00 AM to 11.30 AM)** through E-Auction underthe Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (https://baanknet.com/) e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com, Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through **RTGS/NEFT** in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **09.01.2025, 5.00 PM.**

(₹. in lakhs)

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the Movable/ Immovable assets:	Total Dues, Type of Possession	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1	**(1) M/s. SRS Transport,** No. 53, 1st Main, Lakshmipuram, Ulsoor, Bengaluru-560008. **(2) Sri Thulasiram V,** S/o Vishwanath, No.53, 1st Main Road, Behind C M H Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru-560008. **(3) Smt. Bhuvaneshwari T** W/o Thulasiram V, No. 53, 1st Main Road, Behind C M H Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru-560008. **(4) M/s. SRS Logistics & Warehousing,** No. 3208, 6th C Main Road, 13th Cross, HAL II stage, Indira Nagar, Bengaluru-560038. **Also at: M/s SRS Logistics & Warehousing,** No.B-45, 3rd Main, 1st Cross, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 1st Phase, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099.	All that piece and parcel of: **Property No 1:** Bearing municipal No.115, 114, 113, 112,111 &110(old no: 3A,4,5,6,7,8) PID No: 75-2-110, 75-2-111, 75-2-112, 75-2-113,75-2-114, 75-2-115 Cambridge road, BBMP Jogupalya ward no.75, Halasuru Bangalore-560008 each measuring 200sq ft and in all measuring 1200 sqft and bounded on the East by: Jogupalya main road, West by: property of Sarvamangala, North by: property belonging to Sri Sathisheshwar/ HS Rajeshwari/ RoopaSiddaraju and South by: G 1st street. **Property no 2:** Bearing municipal new no 2 (old no: 33-40) PID:75-44-2 Cambridge road BBMP Jogupalya ward no 75 Halasuru, Bangalore 560008 in all measuring 1723 sqft and bounded East by: property belonging to Indumathi West by: Cambridge road North by: SV road/madras road and South by: property belonging to Smt. Sarvamangala. **Property no 3:** Bearing municipal new no 3 (old no 26/32) PID no: 75-44-3 Cambridge road BBMP Jogupalya ward no.75 Halasuru, Bangalore-560008 in all measuring 4617 sqft and bounded on East by: property belonging to Smt. Indumathi Shivaprasad, West by: Cambridge road, North by: property belonging to Sathisheshwar/ HS Rajeshwari/ Roopa Siddaraju and South by: Kempamma temple. **Coordinates of the property : Latitude- 12.974944, Longitude- 77.625500**	Rs. 103522630.17/- as on 15.12.2024 with further interest and cost thereon Physical possession	a) ₹. 1055.60 b) ₹. 105.56 c) ₹.1.00	03.01.2025 10.00 AM to 02.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer
2	**1. M/s Tidewater shipping Private Limited,** Cunningham Classic, No.104, 22, Cunningham Road, Bangaluru-560052. **2. Sri Subhash Menon** S/o Sri Gopal Menon, Flat No.1, CR II Floor, Regency Place No.7, Richmond Road, Bangalore 560002. **3. Smt. Sunithi s Menon** W/o Sri Subhash Menon, **4. Sri Aditya Menon** S/o Sri Subash Menon, **Both are residing at:** Flat No.1, C2 II Floor, Regency Place No.7, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560002.	Residential property situated at Flat no. 104, Municipal No. 22/5 PID No.78/62/22/5 On The First Floor of Building Known as " Cunningham Classic" Constructed on Property No. 22 (Old No.25), Ward No.78, Sampangi Ramaswamy Temple, Street Cunninghum Road, Bangalore. With super Built up area 578.65 Sq.ft East By : Private Property, West By: Cunninghum Road, North By: Cunningham Crescent, South By: Private Property. Owner of the Property : Sri Subhash Menon & Smt. Sunithi Menon. **Coordinates of the property Latitude- 12.9837459, Longitude- 77.5973358**	Rs. 35989539.67/- as on 16.12.2024 with further interest and cost thereon Physical possession	a) ₹. 109.10 b) ₹. 10.91 c) ₹.1.00	02.01.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 18.12.2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Canara Bank

How scientists are exploring what extraterrestrial life could look like

Advanced forms of life on alien planets could be so strange that they are unrecognisable. As astrobiologists try to detect life off earth, they will need to be creative. One strategy is to measure mineral signatures on the rocky surfaces of exoplanets, since mineral diversity tracks biological evolution

Chris Impey

A slice of the Esquel meteorite. This type of meteorite is from the core-mantle boundary of an ancient planetoid that was smacked apart billions of years ago. DOUG BOWMAN

We have only one example of biology forming in the universe: life on earth. But what if life can form in other ways? How do you look for alien life when you don't know what alien life might look like?

These questions are preoccupying astrobiologists, who are scientists who look for life beyond earth. Astrobiologists have attempted to come up with universal rules that govern the emergence of complex physical and biological systems both on earth and beyond.

I'm an astronomer who has written extensively about astrobiology. Through my research, I've learned that the most abundant form of extraterrestrial life is likely to be microbial, since single cells can form more readily than large organisms. But just in case there's advanced alien life out there, I'm on the international advisory council for the group designing messages to send to those civilisations.

Detecting life beyond earth

Since the first discovery of an exoplanet in 1995, over 5,000 exoplanets, or planets orbiting other stars, have been found. Many of these exoplanets are small and rocky, like earth, and in the habitable zones of their stars. The habitable zone is the range of distances between the surface of a planet and the star it orbits that would allow the planet to have liquid water, and thus support life as we on earth know it.

The sample of exoplanets detected so far projects 300 million potential biological experiments in our galaxy – or 300 million places, including exoplanets and other bodies such as moons, with suitable conditions for biology to arise. The uncertainty for researchers starts with the definition of life. It feels like defining life should be easy, since we know life when we see it, whether it's a flying bird or a microbe moving in a drop of water. But scientists don't agree on a definition, and some think a comprehensive definition might not be possible.

NASA defines life as a "self-sustaining chemical reaction capable of Darwinian evolution." That means organisms with a complex chemical system that evolve by adapting to their environment. Darwinian evolution says that the survival of an organism depends on its fitness in its environment. The evolution of life on earth has progressed over billions of years from single-celled organisms to large animals and other species, including humans. Evolution is the process of change in systems. It can describe how a group of something becomes more complex - or even just different - over time.

Exoplanets are remote and hundreds of millions of times fainter than their parent stars, so studying them is challenging. Astronomers can inspect the atmospheres and surfaces of earth-like exoplanets using a method called spectroscopy to look for chemical signatures of life. Spectroscopy might detect signatures of oxygen in a planet's atmosphere, which microbes called blue-green algae created by photosynthesis on earth several billion years ago, or chlorophyll signatures, which indicate plant life. NASA's definition of life leads to some important but unanswered questions. Is Darwinian evolution universal? What chemical reactions can lead to biology off earth?

Evolution and complexity

All life on earth, from a fungal spore to a blue whale, evolved from a microbial last common ancestor about 4 billion years ago. The same chemical processes are seen in all living organisms on earth, and those processes might be universal. They also may be radically different elsewhere. In October 2024, a diverse group of scientists gathered to think outside the box on evolution. They wanted to step back and explore what sort of processes created order in the universe – biological or not – to figure out how to study the emergence of life totally unlike life on earth. Two researchers present argued that complex systems of chemicals or minerals, when in environments that allow some configurations to persist better than others, evolve to store larger amounts of information. As time goes by, the system will grow more diverse and complex, gaining the functions needed for survival through a kind of natural selection.

They speculated that there might be a law to describe the evolution of a wide variety of physical systems. Biological evolution through natural selection would be just one example of this broader law. In biology, information refers to the instructions stored in the sequence of nucleotides on a DNA molecule, which collectively make up an organism's genome and dictate what the organism looks like and how it functions. If you define complexity in terms of information theory, natural selection will cause a genome to grow more complex as it stores more information about its environment.

Complexity might be useful in measuring the boundary between life and nonlife. However, it's wrong to conclude that animals are more complex than microbes. Biological information increases with genome size, but evolutionary information density drops. Evolutionary information density is the fraction of functional genes within the genome, or the fraction of the total genetic material that expresses fitness for the environment. Organisms that people think of as primitive, such as bacteria, have genomes with high information density and so appear better designed than the genomes of plants or animals. A universal theory of life is still elusive. Such a theory would include the concepts of complexity and information storage, but it would not be tied to DNA or the particular kinds of cells we find in terrestrial biology.

All life on earth, from a fungal spore to a whale, evolved from a microbial last common ancestor about 4 billion years ago. The same chemical processes are seen in all living organisms on earth, and those processes might be universal

Implications for search for life

Researchers have explored alternatives to terrestrial biochemistry. All known living organisms, from bacteria to humans, contain water, and it is a solvent that is essential for life on earth. A solvent is a liquid medium that facilitates chemical reactions from which life could emerge. But life could potentially emerge from other solvents, too. Astrobiologists William Bains and Sara Seager have explored thousands of molecules that might be associated with life. Plausible solvents include sulfuric acid, ammonia, liquid carbon dioxide, and even liquid sulphur. Alien life might not be based on carbon, which forms the backbone of all life's essential molecules – at least here on Earth. It might not even need a planet to survive.

Advanced forms of life on alien planets could be so strange that they're unrecognisable. As astrobiologists try to detect life off earth, they'll need to be creative. One strategy is to measure mineral signatures on the rocky surfaces of exoplanets, since mineral diversity tracks terrestrial biological evolution. As life evolved on earth, it used and created minerals for exoskeletons and habitats. The hundred minerals present when life first formed have grown to about 5,000 today. For example, zircons are simple silicate crystals that date back to the time before life started. A zircon found in Australia is the oldest known piece of earth's crust. But other minerals, such as apatite, a complex calcium phosphate mineral, are created by biology. Apatite is a primary ingredient in bones, teeth, and fish scales.

Another strategy to finding life unlike that on earth is to detect evidence of a civilisation, such as artificial lights or the industrial pollutant nitrogen dioxide in the atmosphere. These are examples of traces of intelligent life called technosignatures. It's unclear how and when a first detection of life beyond earth will happen. It might be within the solar system, or by sniffing exoplanet atmospheres, or by detecting artificial radio signals from a distant civilisation. The search is a twisting road, not a straightforward path. And that's for life as we know it – for life as we don't know it, all bets are off.

(Chris Impey is University Distinguished Professor of Astronomy, University of Arizona. This article is republished from The Conversation.*)*

Space One President Masakazu Toyoda announces the failure of the second attempt to launch the Kairos No. 2 rocket on Wednesday. AP

Japan space startup aborts second launch minutes after liftoff

Associated Press

A Japanese space startup said its second attempt to launch a rocket carrying satellites into orbit had been aborted minutes after liftoff Wednesday and destroyed itself, nine months after the company's first launch attempt ended in an explosion.

Space One's Kairos No. 2 rocket lifted off from a coastal site in the mountainous prefecture of Wakayama in central Japan.

The company said it had aborted the flight after concluding that it was unlikely to complete its mission.

"We are very sorry that we could not achieve as far as a final stage of the mission," Space One President Masakazu Toyoda told a news conference Wednesday. "We don't consider this a failure because we are getting valuable data that will help our pursuit toward a next challenge."

He said he hoped to find the cause to address the problems as soon as possible to achieve success next time.

Company executive and space engineer Mamoru Endo said the abnormality in the first-stage engine nozzle or its control system is likely to have caused an unstable flight of the rocket, which started spiraling in midflight and eventually destroyed itself about three minutes after liftoff, using its autonomous safety mechanism.

The rocket, which rose higher than 100 kilometers above ground, entered space before it was destroyed, officials said.

Issues with the first-stage engine nozzle are likely to have caused unstable flight, and the rocket started to spiral. It eventually destroyed itself about three minutes after liftoff

Space One aims to be Japan's first company to put a satellite into orbit, hoping to boost Japan's lagging space industry with a small rocket for an affordable space transport business.

Wednesday's flight, postponed twice from Saturday because of strong winds, came nine months after a failed debut flight in March, when the rocket was intentionally exploded five seconds after takeoff. The flight was carrying a government satellite that was intended to monitor North Korea's missile launches and other military activities.

Kairos No. 2 rocket was carrying five small satellites, including one from the Taiwanese space agency and several from Japanese startups.

Space One said it had fixed the cause of the debut flight failure, which stemmed from a miscalculation of the rocket's first-stage propulsion.

Japan hopes the company can pave the way for a domestic space industry that competes with the United States.

Tokyo-based Space One was set up in 2018 with investments from major Japanese companies, including Canon Electronics, IHI, Shimizu, and major banks, to commercialise space delivery services at lower costs and regular flights as many as 20 times a year, compared to six currently planned by the government-led space program.

Japan's space development programmes are led by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, and industry leaders such as Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and IHI, as they develop two main flagship rockets, the large H3 rocket and the much smaller Epsilon, to cater to the growing satellite transport business.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Nobody can hear your answers in the void...

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

In 1643, X filled a tall cylindrical container closed at one end with liquid mercury, then turned it upside down on a basin of mercury until the container was fully vertical. The mercury in the container dropped by some height but not further, leaving behind a vacuum in the receptacle. Name X. Hint: One unit of measuring vacuum is named for him.

QUESTION 2

An incandescent light bulb contains a vacuum or an inert gas so that the filament doesn't undergo a chemical reaction called _____ when it is heated to produce light. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION3

The world's first practical Y consisted of a chamber containing a vacuum, a heated cathode, and an anode. When an alternating current was applied to the circuit, electrons could only flow from the heated electrode to the unheated one. Thus, Y allowed current to flow in only one direction. Name Y.

QUESTION 4

An important part of quantum field theory describes the vacuum of empty space as being full of _____ _____, which are subatomic particles rapidly popping in and out of existence. If these particles didn't exist, the electron's bare charge would be infinite. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

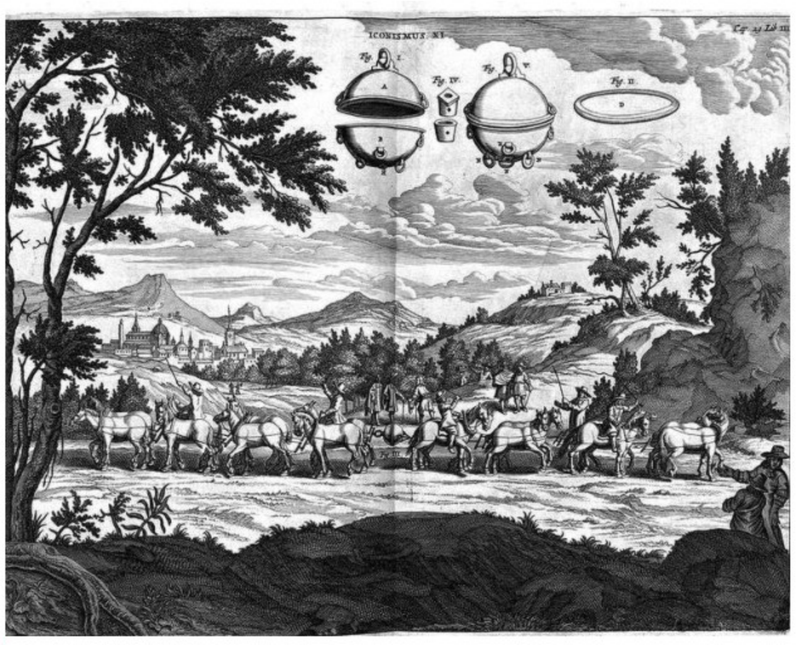
While space is mostly empty, it's nowhere a perfect vacuum. It's filled instead with photons — the particles of light — and _____, the second most abundant particles in the universe. Fill in the blank.

Answers to the December 17 quiz:

1. Codename of USAF exercise to study UFOs until 1969 – **Ans: Project Blue Book**
2. Constellation whose stars Larry Hogan mistook to be drones – **Ans: Orion**
3. World War II pilots' names for orbs of bright light – **Ans: Foo fighters**
4. Colloquial name for light seen above ships' masts – **Ans: St. Elmo's fire**
5. Harvard scientist who launched Project Galileo in 2021 – **Ans: Avi Loeb**

Visual: **Sun dogs**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Chandan Kumar Singha | Ankurjyoti Hatimuria | Anmol Agrawal | Amitha B.



Visual: Name the two hemispheres at the centre of the famous experiment depicted in this 1657 engraving. When they were latched, had their air pumped out, and sealed, they couldn't be taken apart by multiple horses pulling from either side. PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Two caught smuggling four agile gibbons from Malaysia in suitcases

Gibbons were brought to the city to be handed over to their contact who was waiting at the departure gate of the airport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Intelligence and Investigation Branch (SIIB) of Customs at Bengaluru International Airport unearthed a wildlife smuggling trade and caught two people, including a businessman, allegedly trying to smuggle four agile gibbons concealed in four suitcases to Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The officials, based on the profiles of the passengers, intercepted Mohammed Ansar, 62, and his associate Syed Jabbar Nawaz Pasha, 43, from K.G. Halli and recovered the suitcases from them. They rescued the four baby gibbons as soon as they landed in Bengaluru from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on a Batik Air flight.

The gibbons, stuffed in the bag along with a few chocolates and biscuits, were brought to the city to be handed over to their contact who was waiting at the departure gate in the airport, said the officials. However, the accused escaped after the duo was caught.

The duo were mules for the international wildlife trade racket and were offered ₹10,000 along with to and fro tickets and accommodation, the official said, adding that the exotic animals are illegally sold as pets.

One of the gibbons that was being smuggled into Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Legal requirements

As per the import export (EXIM) policy of India, import of live animals listed in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) without a valid Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) license, NOCs from the Chief Wildlife Warden and MoEF&CC, CITES Export Permit and Animals Quarantine Certificate are prohibited.

"The duo did not produce any valid documents to import these live exotic animals and hence it is a violation under CITES as well as the Wild Life (Protection) Act. Violations of the animal species listed in CITES Appendix-I of Schedule-IV of the Act attracts the punishment of three to seven years of imprisonment with fine," the official said.

Officials said hiring mules is on the rise in Tamil Nadu where unemployed youth have been lured with foreign trips and pocket money in return for carrying consignments. The rescued gibbons were given medical aid and quarantined at the airport and the process is on to deport them back to Malaysia from where they were brought.

Other cases

In November, the customs officials at the Kempegowda International Airport rescued as many as 40 wild animals, including a baby American alligator and gibbons which were being smuggled in a trolley bag from Malaysia. In October, the officials in Chennai had rescued gibbons which were smuggled from Malaysia.

Accolades for KIA's lounges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport's (KIA) 080 Domestic Lounge at Terminal 2 (T2) has been honoured with the Best Domestic Airport Lounge recognition at the Travel+Leisure India's Best Awards.

The 080 International Lounge at T2 has also been granted the title of Favourite Airport Lounge at the Condé Nast Reader's Choice Awards 2024.

The Travel + Leisure and Condé Nast Traveller magazines conduct these annual reader's choice awards to celebrate the finest establishments in the travel and hospitality industry.

"Receiving the awards from Condé Nast Traveller and Travel + Leisure speaks of the passion and care that went into shaping the lounges at Terminal 2. Every element of the lounges reflects our commitment to crafting spaces that combine elegance, comfort, and a deep sense of place. These recognitions motivate us to continue elevating the travel experience and setting new standards in hospitality," Hari Marar, MD and CEO of Bangalore International Airport Ltd.

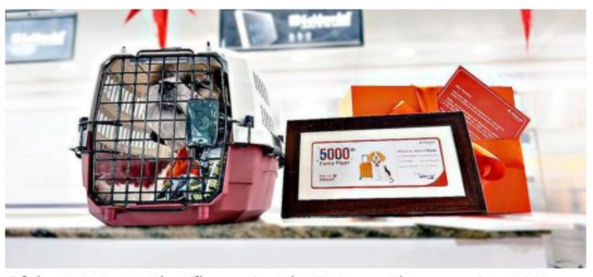
City top destination for pet travel onboard Akasa Air

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru has emerged as the leading pet travel hub for Akasa Air.

On December 18, the airline announced a milestone of flying its 5,000th pet since the launch of its pet-travel service in November 2022 with Bengaluru contributing 31% of all pets flown, followed by Delhi and Mumbai.

According to the airline, the most popular routes for pet travel were Bengaluru-Delhi, Delhi-Bengaluru and Mumbai-Delhi.



Of the 5,000 pets that flew using the Pets-on-Akasa service, 66% were dogs and 34% were cats. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Of the 5,000 furry travellers, 66% pets were dogs and 34% were cats.

Akasa Air said that its Pets-on-Akasa service has received an overwhelmingly positive response from pet parents, solidifying its reputation as a trusted choice for safe and comfortable pet travel.

Feedback from its customers played an integral role in shaping its services, demonstrated by key policy enhancements introduced in May 2024, including increasing the permissible weight for pets in the cabin to 10 kg (inclusive of the container) and extending the validity of pet travel certificates to 15 days.

"We had embarked on our journey to create an inclusive travel experience for all, and today, we are delighted to celebrate our 5,000th pet on Akasa. This incredible milestone reflects our commitment to ensuring that every journey, whether for our passengers or their furry companions, is safe, comfortable, and welcoming. Our pet-friendly travel policies are designed with the utmost care to address the unique needs of pets, from safety protocols to convenience and comfort," said Belson Coutinho, co-founder and chief marketing and experience officer of Akasa Air.

Launched on November 1, 2022, Pets-on-Akasa allows customers to travel on domestic flights across 22 cities with their cats and dogs in the cabin or cargo, based on their weight.

Charity programme 'Namma Santa' held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

St. Claret PU College, Jalahalli, on Monday, hosted Namma Santa - a charity event for people with terminal cancer and children from low-income families for an afternoon of care.

Foundation Day celebrated

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, No. 2, Air Force Station (AFS), Jalahalli East, celebrated its 62nd Foundation Day on December 14. This Day also marked Grandparents Day. Former Principal M.K. Krishnamoorthy was chief guest.

The programme featured contributions from alumni who shared experiences as KV students.

PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, also celebrated the 62nd Foundation Day of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on campus on the day. During the event, four alumni of KV IISC were honoured.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, DEC. 19		
RISE	06:36	SET 17:58
RISE	21:51	SET 10:02
FRIDAY, DEC. 20		
RISE	06:36	SET 17:58
RISE	22:40	SET 10:43
SATURDAY, DEC. 21		
RISE	06:37	SET 17:59
RISE	23:28	SET 11:20

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	21
Mysuru	29	16
Bengaluru	27	15

Bengaluru Today
26°C The dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
23°C Morning will be cool. The day will be pleasant. Night will be slight cool. Spell of light to moderate rain and thunder-shower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Bottles of generic medication recalled by Dr. Reddy Labs

3.3 in lakh. Dr Reddy's Laboratories is recalling over 3.3 lakh bottles of a medication used to treat high calcium levels in blood and hyperparathyroidism in the U.S. due to manufacturing issues. The recall is due to the "presence of N-nitroso Cinacalcet impurity above FDA recommended interim limit". The affected lot was produced in India. PTI

Germany's funds for Pakistan forest protection project

20 An agreement for financial support for the 'Billion Tree Afforestation Support Project' (BTASP) was signed in Islamabad on Saturday between Pakistan Economic Affairs Secretary Dr. Kazim Niaz and Director of German Development Bank KfW, Esther Gravenkotter. The first phase of BTASP is already under implementation, according to *The Dawn* newspaper. PTI

Death toll in Gaza since Israeli troops began the invasion

43,341 The Health Ministry in Gaza said on Sunday that at least 43,341 people have been killed in the war between Israel and Palestinian militants. The toll includes 27 deaths in the previous 24 hours, according to the ministry, which said 1,02,105 people have been wounded since Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023. AFP

Number of people injured in Srinagar grenade attack

11 This attack comes a day after security forces eliminated a top Pakistani commander of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in the Khanyar locality of downtown Srinagar. The blast took place close to the weekly flea market, known as the Sunday market. An official said the attack was borne out of the desperation of terrorists following the killing of the LeT commander. PTI

Amount invested by the Union govt. into RINL despite issues

1,650 in Rs cr. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam (RINL) is a steel manufacturing company under the Ministry of Steel which owns a 7.5 million tonne plant at Visakhapatnam. The government is taking various measures to keep RINL as a going concern, as the RINL is in "serious financial trouble". PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why were Romanian polls annulled?

What prompted the constitutional court to declare the European nation's presidential polls invalid? Who is Calin Georgescu and what has been his role in the elections? What are the allegations levelled against Russia and has the country faced similar accusations in the past in the region?

EXPLAINER

Garimella Subramaniam

The story so far:-

In an unprecedented ruling on December 6, Romania's constitutional court unanimously annulled the country's presidential elections, two days before the run-off ballot, amid allegations of Russian interference. Suspicions of foul play were fuelled when Calin Georgescu emerged frontrunner, securing 22.9% of the vote, after the first round of polling on November 24. A professor of environmental sciences who fought as an independent and had polled in single digits until then, Mr. Georgescu is an ex-honorary member of the far-right Alliance for the Union of Romanians (AUR) party. He has been portrayed as an admirer of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and a critic of Romania's membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU). Mr. Georgescu was even suggested as the Prime Minister candidate by the AUR party, which came second in the legislative elections of December 1.

The Constitutional Court in Bucharest had ordered a recount in response to complaints by two of the contestants who were eliminated in the first round. Once the exercise confirmed the previous tally, the judges had given the go ahead for the knock-out round on December 8. However, the unfolding dramatic turn of events prompted the court to call off the elections altogether, concluding that the process was marred by multiple irregularities.

Catalin Georgescu has been portrayed as an admirer of Vladimir Putin and a critic of Romania's membership of NATO and the EU.AFP

How serious are the allegations?

Days before the aborted run-off, Romania's National Security Council declassified troves of documents from the Interior Ministry, detailing how the country had been a target of Russian cybercrimes, information leaks and sabotage. It said some 800 TikTok accounts created in 2016 were activated in support of Mr. Georgescu a month before the ballot and thousands closer to the polling date. More than 100 paid influencers with a few million followers were deployed to boost Mr. Georgescu's prospects. Romania's secret service (SRI) has claimed it has identified thousands of cyberattacks originating from Russian platforms, which routed their operations from several countries, and distorted the information presented to the public. The agency singled out Mr. Georgescu, who had claimed that he had no access to campaign funds, as having received preferential treatment from TikTok, because the platform owned by ByteDance did not label his video posts as political advertisement. TikTok has denied any wrongdoing and taken down thousands of disputed posts and promised full cooperation with the authorities. Telegram and Discord are the other channels Romanian authorities have blamed for involvement in these covert and coordinated operations.

What is the status of the probe?

In a complaint filed with the EU regulator, Romania's media watchdog has alleged that TikTok's algorithms amplified Mr. Georgescu's content to the disadvantage of other candidates. Subject to available evidence, the commission could investigate the Chinese social media platform for potential violations under the EU's Digital Services Act (DSA). The law stipulates content moderation obligations on large online platforms to mitigate systemic risks, including the electoral processes and imposes penalties of up to 6% of global annual turnover. TikTok has already been served an order under the DSA to preserve for scrutiny all its data relating to European elections.

What explains Georgescu's appeal?

The TikTok messenger that spectacularly propelled his victory does not detract from the resonance of Mr. Georgescu's ultra-nationalist message among an electorate disenchanted with the dominance of the mainstream Social Democratic Party and the National Liberal Party since the fall of communism. High inflation, a ballooning fiscal deficit and balance of payments challenges, not to mention rampant corruption in high places and contempt for the rule of law, have been weaponised by populist and extremist groups to peddle propaganda and conspiracy theories.

How widespread are concerns of Russian meddling in the region?

From orchestrating a so-called hybrid warfare of spreading disinformation, cyberattacks and sabotage, to paying off pro-Russian MEPs (Members of the European Parliament), Moscow's controversial role came into sharp focus during the European parliament elections in June.

In response, Belgium and the Czech Republic coordinated investigations that led, among other actions, Prague to impose sanctions on an oligarch close to Mr. Putin for promoting a pro-Russia narrative via Voice of Europe website, which has since been taken down.

While a German MP from the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party is under a probe for receiving money from a pro-Russia campaign, the Belgian government in April passed legislation to criminalise foreign interference in the political process.

In Moldova, the fragile post-Soviet republic, Moscow is accused of plotting to destabilise the pro-EU government, and interference in President Maia Sandu's re-election and the referendum on EU accession in October.

What next?

While a re-run of the presidential contest is expected next year, the Mayor of Bucharest has thrown his hat in the ring. The ultra-nationalist Mr. Georgescu has vowed to challenge the decision in the Supreme Court. Romanian tax authorities have launched financial investigations against the social influencers behind Georgescu's campaign, some of whom have since fled the country.

THE GIST

- Romania's presidential elections were annulled amid allegations of Russian interference
- Suspicions of foul play were alleged after Calin Georgescu from the political fringe emerged frontrunner, securing 22.9% of the vote, after the first round of polling on November 24
- In a complaint filed with the EU regulator, Romania's media watchdog has alleged that TikTok's algorithms amplified Mr. Georgescu's content to the disadvantage of other candidates

What did the U.S. Congressional report on COVID origins find?

How did the U.S. government, in the report, arrive at the conclusion that SARS-CoV-2 emerged from a laboratory leak? What is a furin cleavage site and how does it come into play in this case?

Priyali Prakash

The story so far:

A U.S. Congressional committee led by Republican Brad Wenstrup has concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic was the result of the spread of a virus that likely leaked from a research facility in Wuhan, China.

The final report of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, established in 2023, was published on December 2, 2024.

The report runs over 500 pages and, according to committee members, will serve as a roadmap for government action during future pandemics.

"A future pandemic requires a whole-of-America response managed by those without personal benefit or bias," Mr. Wenstrup wrote. "We can always do better, and for the sake of future generations of Americans, we must."

What is the lab-leak theory?

The report stated that SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic, possibly emerged from a laboratory leak.

It based this conclusion on inferred or circumstantial claims made early during the pandemic.

It quoted an unclassified factsheet from January 2021 published by the U.S. State Department that said: "The U.S. government has reason to believe several researchers inside the WIV [Wuhan Institute of Virology] became sick in autumn 2019, before the first identified case of the outbreak, with symptoms consistent with both COVID-19 and common seasonal illness."

The report itself does not directly prove the lab-leak theory, however.

The report also quoted statements by molecular biologist Alina Chan in June 2024 in support of the lab-leak hypothesis.

In one statement, Dr. Chan said the virus emerged in Wuhan, which is also home to China's "foremost research lab for SARS-like viruses", and that Shi Zhengli, a senior virologist at WIV, "has been researching SARS-like viruses for over a decade and even initially wondered if the outbreak came from the WIV".

But at a conference in Japan on December 4, Dr. Shi reportedly refuted the claim that the viruses she was studying were ancestors of the SARS-CoV-2 pathogen.

She had earlier promised to sequence the genomes of 56 betacoronaviruses she and her team had collected between 2004 and 2021 and were studying. She presented the sequencing data and their analyses at the conference. (The latter have yet to be peer-reviewed.)

The Select Subcommittee report also noted an observation by Nicholas Wade, former science editor at *The New York Times*, in January 2024, that SARS-CoV-2 "possesses a furin cleavage site, found in none of the other 871 known members of its viral family, so it cannot have gained such a site through the ordinary evolutionary swaps of genetic material within a family."

A furin cleavage is the process by which the furin enzyme breaks up specific proteins to activate them. The furin cleavage site in SARS-CoV-2 controls how it interacts with human cells to cause the disease.

A letter published in *The Lancet* in August 2023 by researchers from Cornell University refuted Mr. Wade's idea and said the site could have evolved naturally, as opposed to being genetically engineered.

What else does the report say?

The report also said the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded gain-of-function research at WIV.

Gain-of-function research refers to studies where researchers genetically alter organisms to give them additional functions, like enhanced transmissibility or infectivity.

THE GIST

- The report claims several researchers inside the WIV became sick in autumn 2019 with symptoms consistent with both COVID-19 and common seasonal illness
- However, the report itself does not directly prove the lab-leak theory
- The report also says the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded gain-of-function research at WIV

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

KALKERE BRANCH
Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560083

POSSESSION NOTICE
[See Rule-8(1)] (For immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of the **Union Bank of India, Kalkere Branch** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated **03-10-2024** calling upon the borrower **1. M/s Shree Madduramma Textiles, Proprietor: Mr. Nagaraju** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice of **Rs.13,56,526.32 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifty Six Thousands Five Hundred Twenty Six and Thirty Two Paise only)** as on 27/09/2024 and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the (Security Interest Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this 17th day of December 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India, Kalkere Branch** for an amount **Rs.13,56,526.32 (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Fifty Six Thousands Five Hundred Twenty Six and Thirty Two Paise only)** as on 27/09/2024 and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of Residential House having Door No. 971 (old no. 201/B, (Measuring East to West 15 ft. and North to South 40 ft.) and measuring 600 Sq.ft. and bearing Khatha No. 1/27-1/28, 7th Cross Road, located at Pillaganahalli Village, Maruthi Layout, Weavers Colony, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore Pincode 560083, property owned by Mr. Nagaraju, bounded on the **East by:** Property No. 201/A, **West by:** Property No. 200, **North by:** Property No. 220, **South by:** 7th Cross Road.

Date: 17.12.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Union Bank of India**

KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK
(A Scheduled Bank Established by Government of India: Sponsored by Canara Bank)
Regional Office, Bengaluru, R & L Section
Ph: 080-23186095,23217079 : Email: roblr.rlw@kgbk.in
No.19-19/1, 2nd floor, South End Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

DEMAND NOTICE
(SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT-2002)
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (HEREIN AFTER CALLED THE ACT)

At the request, Bank has extended credit facility to the below mentioned individuals against secured assets through its below mentioned Branch as under. The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement / documents & creation of mortgage by way of deposit of the title deeds Simple mortgage are also furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/credit facilities have become irregular, the debt has been classified as Non Performing Asset in accordance with the directives / guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrower in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice dated as mentioned below sent by register post AD calling upon you, was unserved / not acknowledged, Hence this paper notification.

Doddaballapura Branch : Name & Address of the Borrower/Mortgagor: (1) Smt. Hanumakka W/o Late G T Krishnappa, **(2) Sri. G K Venkatesh** S/o Late G T Krishnappa, **(3) Sri. G K Anand** S/o Late G T Krishnappa, **(4) Sri. G K Srinivas** S/o Late G T Krishnappa, **All R/@** Gundasandra (V), Doddaballapura (Tq), Bangalore Rural (D)-561203.
Liability: Rs.30,44,469/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Forty Four Thousand Four Hundred and Sixty Nine only) as on **04.11.2024** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs.
NPA Date: 03.08.2024 **Demand Notice Date:05.12.2024**
Details of Secured Property: Property is held in the name of Smt. Hanumakka W/o Late G T Krishnappa. Property having Site No.17, BBMP PID NO.100-118-17, Property Measuring E-W-42 Feet, N-S-39 Feet, Situated at Nagashettyhalli(V), Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North (Tq) Bangalore Rural-561203. Boundaries: East : Site No.16, West : Site No.18, North : Road, South : Poojappa's Property.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 2 of section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Banks rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deem necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

Date : 18.12.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Karnataka Gramin Bank**

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

JAYANAGAR 9TH BLOCK BRANCH
No.1010, Ground Floor, Jayanagar 9th Block Branch, 26th Main, 4th T Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore - 560 041. Email: ubin0910465@unionbankofindia.bank

POSSESSION NOTICE
[See Rule-8(1)] (For immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the authorised officer of **Union Bank of India, Jayanagar 9th Block 26th Main Jayanagar Bangalore 560041** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated **17-09-2024** calling upon the borrowers **Shri S Kannaiah and Mrs Kavitha K** to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs.22,98,257.51 (Rupees Twenty-Two Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven Rupees and Fifty One Paise)** (as on **30-08-2024**) together with further interest & charges within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read withrule 8 of the said rules on this 13th day of December the year 2024.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Union Bank of India, Jayanagar Branch** for an amount **Rs.22,98,257.51** (as on **30-08-2024**) and further interest & charges thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13of the Act, in respect of time available to the borrower to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

All the part and parcel of the property, bearing New Municipal No. 745/A,PID No.54-302-745/A formed and developed by Kempegowda HBCS Limited, carved out of Sy. No. 101/1, 101/3, 102, 105/2,107/3, 108/1 and 108/2 situated at Kathriguppe Village, Banshankari 3rd Stage, Bangalore South Taluk measuring East to West 24 ft. and North to South 40 Ft. in all measuring 960 sq ft bounded on: **East by:** Site No 746; **West by:** Site No 745, **North by:** Site No 748, **South by:** Road and residential building constructed thereon.

Date: 19.12.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Union Bank of India**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: SA-E15-2024-25-W1-W3 Dated:16/12/2024

Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical/Salem Division, Salem - 5 for and on behalf of the President of India Invites E-Tender for the under mentioned works. Online bids only will be accepted. For detailed NIT, qualification criteria, bidding document, tender submission etc. can be viewed/ downloaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

E-Tender Notice No, Date and Name of Work	Details
1) SA-E15-2024-25-W1 dated:16/12/2024 Salem Division: Construction of OHT 2.25 Lakh litre capacity Provision of 75 HP VT Pump at MRS Pump house in Erode Junction Railway Station.	Approx. cost: Rs. 28,87,349.00/- EMD: Rs. 57,800.00/- Completion Period: 6 Months.
2) SA-E15-2024-25-W2 dated:16/12/2024 Salem Division- Electrification of newly constructed LUS in various locations in the Salem-Virudhachalam section (LUS No:72, 81, 82, 84, 99, 119, 138, 139, 140, 141,142, 143, 144, 147, 160, 163, 168) - 17 Nos Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. cost: Rs. 13,62,567.00/- EMD: Rs. 27,300.00/- Completion Period: 6 Months.
3) SA-E15-2024-25-W3 dated:16/12/2024 Salem Division- Electrification of newly constructed LUS in various locations in Salem-Virudhachalam section (LUS No:66, 68, 74, 77, 80, 83, 85, 90, 100, 116, 125, 135,148,157,162,165,174)-17 Nos Electrical Arrangements.	Approx. cost: Rs. 13,62,567.00/- EMD: Rs. 27,300.00/- Completion Period: 6 Months.
For all the works Closing Time & Date: 15.00hrs. on 07.01.2025	
For all the works Bids Opening Time & Date: 15.30hrs. on 07.01.2025	

All Addendum/ Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website portal www.ireps.gov.in_only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical)
Salem Division, Salem-636 005

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, NEW DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS DIVISION, Deoghar
E-mail:eenhdeoghar@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid/ Package no.-**NH/Deoghar/EPC/01/2024-25.** Dated- **17.12.2024**

RFP for **Work of widening to two lanes with paved shoulder (except in flyover part of 500m) from Km 122.15 to Km 138.20 of NH-114A within available RoW in the State of Jharkhand under EPC mode (working length of the project as per TCS – 14 Km). (Job No. – NH-114A/JHR/2024-25/05)**

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through **Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi** is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavour, it has been decided to undertake **Work of widening to two lanes with paved shoulder (except in flyover part of 500m) from Km 122.15 to Km 138.20 of NH-114A within available RoW in the State of Jharkhand under EPC mode (working length of the project as per TCS – 14 Km). (Job No. – NH-114A/JHR/2024-25/05).**through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract.[The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways/ State Public Works Department/represented by its DG(RD)&SS/ CE (NH) PWD State] now invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project:-

State	NH No.	ICB No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs. Cr.)	Completion Period	Maintenance Period
Jharkhand	114A		Work of widening to two lanes with paved shoulder (except in flyover part of 500m) from Km 122.15 to Km 138.20 of NH-114A within available RoW in the State of Jharkhand under EPC mode (working length of the project as per TCS – 14 Km). **(Job No. – NH-114A/JHR/2024-25/05)**	**19.94** (Including LC& Utility Shifting but Excluding GST)	11 (Eleven Months)	5 (Five years) after Completion

The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of theCPPP website https:// eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/appfrom **26.12.2024** to **10.02.2025**(upto17:00 Hrs. IST). Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at https:// eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/appon or before **10.02.2025**(upto 17:00 Hrs). Bids received online shall be opened on **14.02.2025**(after 15:00 hours IST).

Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security in form of Insurance Surety Bond, Account Payee Demand Draft, Banker's Cheque or Electronic Bank Guarantee (e- Bank Guarantee), receipt of document fee, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder within 2 days from the bid due date. In case of Original BGs in confirmation of scanned copies are not submitted within this period by the bidder, the bidder will be debarred for one year from bidding for National Highways/other Centrally Sponsored works of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways and its implementing agencies. Please note that the Ministry/Authority/ Executing Agency reserve the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
National Highway Division, Deoghar

PR 342331 Deoghar (24-25)_D

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Palakkad Division
E-Tender Notice No. PGT/OT/23/2024 dated 17.12.2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Southern Railway/ Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. cash value ₹ in lakhs	Bid Security Amount ₹	Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs	Completion Period in months
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Palakkad Division Replacement of steel OHT with RCC OHT-45 KL capacity -06 Nos. at Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Palakkad Jurisdiction.	165.77	2,32,900/-	17.01.2025	Eight
2	Palakkad- Repairs to Officers quarters which includes type-IV, V and bungalow.	299.95	3,00,000/-	17.01.2025	Six
3	Walayar - Ettimada - Provision of IBH between Walayar -Ettimada on B line.	25.24	50,500/-	08.01.2025	Four
4	Palakkad Division Improvements to Gang rest room (Gents staff) at Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Mangalore Jurisdiction.	252.67	2,76,300/-	17.01.2025	Eight
5	Palakkad Division Divisional Engineer/East jurisdiction -provision of new Foot Over bridges at Madukkarai, Walayar and Kanjikode stations duly dismantling the old destressed fOBs.	939.67	6,19,800/-	17.01.2025	Twelve
6	Palakkad division- Replacement of steel OHT with RCC OHT-225 KL capacity at Palakkad Jn station.	79.02	1,58,000/-	08.01.2025	Six
7	Palakkad division- Replacement of steel OHT with RCC OHT- 225 KL capacity at PGTN (Palakkad Town) station.	79.02	1,58,000/-	08.01.2025	Six
8	Palakkad division Replacement of steel OHT with RCC OHT-90 KL capacity -02 Nos. at Senior Section Engineer/Works/Palakkad Jurisdiction.	77.55	1,55,100/-	08.01.2025	Six
9	Palakkad division- Replacement of steel OHT with RCC OHT-90 KL capacity -02 Nos. at Senior Section Engineer/Works/Shoranur Jurisdiction.	77.55	1,55,100/-	08.01.2025	Six
10	Palakkad division Replacement of steel OHT with RCC OHT- 45 KL capacity -03 Nos. at Divisional Engineer/East/Palakkad Jurisdiction.	82.49	1,65,000/-	08.01.2025	Six
11	Palakkad Division Provision of side pathway for Br.No. (604 A)-B line at Km.529/820-890 (15 x9.14 m): 943 Up & Dn at km.655/233-463 (7 x 30.48 m), Br.no. 24 Dn at Km. 15/329-517 (9 x 18.29 m).	193.90	2,47,000/-	17.01.2025	Twelve
12	Sr.Divisional Engineer / West jurisdiction Repairs to PSC girder bridges in Kannur & Mangalore sub division (replacing teared bulged Elastomeric bearings) (List enclosed).	135.88	2,18,000/-	08.01.2025	Six
13	Zonal contract for execution of bridge works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of 1 year from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2025 Zone 'A IV' - Bridge works under Divisional Engineer/ East Jurisdiction (Podanur-Ferok; Palakkad-Pollachi; Pollachi-Podanur; Shoranur Shoranur'B' Cabin & Shoranur-Nilambur section).	50.00	1,00,000/-	08.01.2025	Twelve

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act applicable from time to time.
2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.07.2017 onwards.
3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit **"http://www.ireps.gov.in."**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Sr.Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Palakkad

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	South West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB /3355/2024-25 D:18.12.2024 (2nd Call)	₹ 67,17,353/- / ₹1,34,400/-	25.12.2024 upto 5:30 pm	27.12.2024 after 10:30 am
2.		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB /3355/2024-25 D:18.12.2024 (4th Call)	₹ 68,15,066/- / ₹1,36,400/-		
3.		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB /3355/2024-25 Date: 18.12.2024	₹ 6,41,601/- / ₹16,000/-		
4.		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB /3355/2024-25 D:18.12.2024 (4th Call)	₹ 11,33,504/- / ₹28,400/-		

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (South-West-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

5.	North-1	BWSSB/EE(N)-1/ TO/PB/2982/2024-25 D:18.12.2024 (5th Call)	₹ 64,94,421/- / ₹1,30,000/-	26.12.2024 upto 5:00 pm	27.12.2024 after 5:30 pm
6.		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/ TO/PB/2983/2024-25 D:18.12.2024 (5th Call)	₹ 64,94,421/- / ₹1,30,000/-		
7.		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/ TO/PB/2984/2024-25 D:18.12.2024 (5th Call)	₹ 64,94,421/- / ₹1,30,000/-		
8.		BWSSB/EE(N)-1/ TO/PB/2980/2024-25 D:18.12.2024 (4th Call)	₹ 8,12,676/- / ₹16,500/-	02.01.2025 upto 3:00 pm	03.01.2025 at 4:00 pm

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (North-1)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours. DIPR/SI/3849/2024-25

THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU REWIND 2024 TRIVIA QUIZ

DAY 19

1. Which duo won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics for their foundational discoveries that enabled machine learning with artificial neural networks, contributing to the development of tools like ChatGPT?
2. Which sport, featured in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, was held at Teahupo'o, a world-famous surf spot known for its challenging waves in Tahiti, French Polynesia?
3. What is the name of the pair of metal 'chopstick' arms used by SpaceX to catch the Super Heavy booster mid-air during its fifth suborbital test flight in October 2024?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/RTQPA** take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Diwali
2. National Creators Award 2024
3. Hyundai Motor India Ltd

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Mischay Narula, Mumbai | 2. Srinithi Thirupathi, Madurai | 3. Surya Bharathi, Chennai

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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560001. Phone: 080-25310066, E-Mail – cb2366@canaranbank.com

SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the the Authorised Officer of **Canara Bank** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **10.01.2025 at 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM,** for recovery of **₹. 18803093661.63/- as on 20.11.2024** with further interest and cost there on due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **(1) M/s SSJV Projects Private limited,** Terrace Floor, "Vainatheya" No.64, 1st Main, S T Bed, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034, **(2) Mrs. Harini M Shetty** W/o N Manohar Shetty, **Director, M/s SSJV Projects Private Limited, (3) Sri. N Manohar Shetty** S/o Late Narayan Shetty, **Director, M/s SSJV Projects Private Limited, Both are residing at:** No.861, 13th Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034, **(4) M/s Dronagiri Farms Private Limited,** Flat No.303, Sri Ramana Enclave, Madhura Nagar, S R Nagar Post, Hyderabad-500038, **(5) M/s Mandaragiri Greenfields private Limited,** Flat No.102, Sri Ramana Enclave, Madhuranagar, S R Nagar Post, Hyderabad-500038, **(6) M/s Ghataprabha Agro-Farms Private Limited,** Flat No.3892, HMT Hills, 2nd venture, Opp to JNTU College, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **09.01.2025, 5.00 pm.**

Description of the immovable assets: 1) M/s.Dronogiri Agro Farms Private Limited: **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Extent of property Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	282/P1	27 02	33 00	As per sketch	10.14	1.014	0.10
2	282/P2	23	22	As per sketch			
3	206	20	00	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**73**	**15**				

Building measuring approximately 6,178 sq.ft.

2) M/s .Mandaragiri Greenfield Private Limited: **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Extent of property Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	205/P2	07	08	As per sketch	3.78	0.37	0.10
2	282/P3	13 01	33 20	As per sketch			
3	282/P3	05	06	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**27**	**27**				

Building measuring approximately 285 sq.ft.

3) M/s.Ghataprabha Agro Farms Private Limited: **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Extent of property Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	282/P4	18 03	05 00	As per sketch	7.25	0.72	0.10
2	204	30 00	27 19	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**52**	**11**				

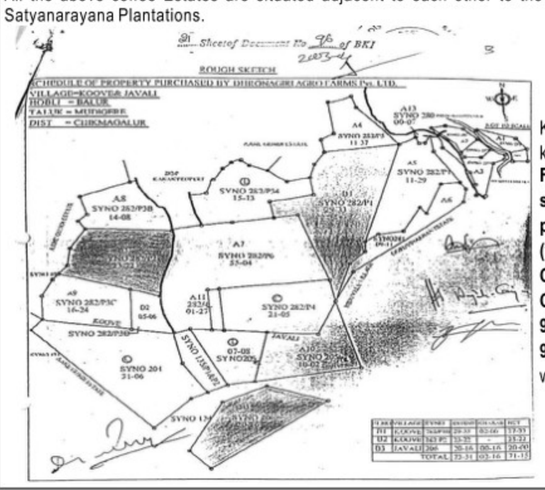
Building measuring approximately 12,825 sq.ft. **(₹. In crores)**

4) Smt Harini Shetty:

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Extent of property Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	276/P2	02	00	As per sketch	21.36	2.136	0.10
2	277	00	14	As per sketch			
3	286	02	07	As per sketch			
4	287	01	00	As per sketch			
5	279	03 00	34 21	As per sketch			
6	282/P5	10 01	30 07	As per sketch			
7	282/P1	10 01	29 00	As per sketch			
8	281	08 00	39 12	As per sketch			
9	282/P6	50 05	04 00	As per sketch			
10	282/P3	27 03	10 20	As per sketch			
11	205/P1	17 00	30 12	As per sketch			
12	282/P4	01	27	As per sketch			
13	280	00	07	As per sketch			
14	135/P1	02 00	20 03	As per sketch			
15	135/P2	02 00	20 03	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**153**	**29**		**42.53**	**4.24**	**0.40**

Building measuring approximately 14,853 sq.ft.

All the above coffee Estates are situated adjacent to each other to the extent of 307.18 acres and now known as Satyanarayana Plantations.



Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank'swebsite (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Mob. No. 08025310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 18.12.2024 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bengaluru **Canara Bank**

BIBLIO

Nature may be complicated to write about but a gendered outlook can help to enhance the understanding of how to value biodiversity.PTI

Nature whisperers: women's unique connection with the environment

Exploring literature on climate and nature through the perspective of women authors helps to reflect on what it means to live ethically, responsibly and healthily in consonance with nature. The writers exhort stakeholders to listen to women's voices in the larger fight for climate justice

Soma Basu

Scientists and activists have warned the world about climate crisis for long. Yet, climate commitments fall short of actions needed to avoid disastrous consequences. The annual international climate summit (COP) or the environment-related days (nine in a calendar year) remind us of the challenges we face due to climate change but that effort on climate justice is too little and late.

Do we not care enough or we do not know enough to care for the environment?

Interestingly, Amitav Ghosh argues that nature does not need humans to stand up and defend it and so, instead of seeking out new ideas to address the ecological crisis, we should return to ancient stories the earth has been telling us. "We can confront the crisis not by trying to save the planet but by listening to it," he writes in an essay, *Brutes: Meditations on the Myth of the Voiceless*.

American environmentalist Charles Eisenstein underlines in his 2018 book, *Climate A New Theory*, that much of the climate derangement comes from direct disruption of ecosystems. He says the core of the crisis is ecocide, the killing of the ecosystem, and not warming.

Vital cog in the wheel

The work of writers such as American naturalist Henry David Thoreau or environmental philosopher John Muir have helped to shape the way we view nature. But women too are vital voices who are often missing from the proverbial table.

The relationship between women and the land is difficult to trace due to lack of documentation, though women sow and till fields and shape the way their cultures relate to the land. Travel writer Suzanne Roberts gives food for thought on the masculinity of wilderness: "I realised I had been relying on a male translation of nature rather than listening to my own voice".

In his novel *Hungry Tide* (2004), Ghosh portrays nature as mother and writes human beings have to take help of nature for a comfortable life. As nurturers, women have a connect with nature and fight climate change through nature-connectedness. But their voices have remained in a minority in climate discourse and nature writing.

Environmental thinker Vandana Shiva is among the few who has to her credit a score of influential books on the subject. She is one who believes women and nature are associated not in passivity but in creativity and in the maintenance of life. In her new book, *The Nature of Nature: The Metabolic Disorder of Climate Change* (2024), she explores the intimate links between food and climate to look deep into the root causes of climate change.

"What we eat, how we grow the food we eat, how we distribute it, will determine whether humanity survives or pushes itself and other species to extinction," writes Shiva, while explaining the incontrovertible connections between a global warming climate and an agricultural system based on techno-optimism. She says food is the currency of life, indivisible from earth and its natural systems, and argues powerfully for a food and climate future based on regeneration or biodiversity, in partnership with the biosphere.

Turning back to nature

Like Ghosh, she writes that in an age of climate catastrophes, we need to turn back to nature and learn once again how to live sustainably on planet earth, offering alternatives that work according to nature's ecological laws and are the real solutions to rejuvenate and regenerate the planet. Shiva analyses the false promises made by technology – oriented lab-intensive digital agriculture and calls out the fake and ultra-processed food industries that are impacting the world's health and food security.

Another widely published author, Prerna Singh Bindra, lobbies with governments on conservation issues and in her book *The Vanishing – India's Wildlife Crisis* (2017), she exhorts thinking citizens to acknowledge the Indian wildlife crisis due to development projects tearing into their habitats.

'Sixth extinction'

Bindra travels to far-flung forests to put the spotlight on the vanishing natural heritage. India is in the midst of mass 'sixth extinction' is her worry, as she writes, "We are losing species in our backyard." The once ubiquitous sparrows, or the fireflies that lit up the nights have dwindled; in the forests, great Indian bustards are down to a 100; the end of the gharial indicates the poisoning and death of the clear and fast-flowing rivers. She tells readers why extinction matters and how the fate of wildlife is linked to humans. She pushes against this "ecocide."

Arati Kumar Rao journeyed across India's diverse landscapes for more than a decade to study the slow violence inflicted in the fragile environment and how it impacts livelihoods. Her book, *Marginlands – Indian Landscapes on the Brink* (2023) throws light on the subtle tectonic changes taking place across ecosystems in India.

She cites examples of the Thar where miners bulldoze sand dunes that guard life-sustaining water; the Gangetic dolphin that now struggles for survival as its riverine habitat is fragmented by dams and roiled by incessant shipping; the cataclysmic floods that unleashes fury on Mumbai due to encroachments.

"As the spectre of climate change compounds natural and human-induced disasters, India's most endangered landscapes are pushed to the precipice of destruction," she warns, making her book a haunting read about failed government schemes, exaggerated promises and human follies.

Leadership qualities

There are few other books by women writers that attempt to demystify climate change, explain what the fuss is all about and why it matters to our survival.

Named one of the best books of the year by Smithsonian Magazine, *All We Can Save* (2020) by Ayana Elizabeth and Katherine K. Wilkinson contains essays from women at the forefront of the climate movement and reveals their leadership rooted in compassion, connection, and collaboration. "To change everything, we need everyone," is their message.

A groundbreaking perspective is a rare anthology, *Women on Nature* (2021) by Katharine Norbury which has 100+ voices on place, landscape and the natural world. Another book *Everglades: River of Grass* (1947) by journalist and conservationist Marjory Stoneman Douglas is about her efforts to protect the fragile wetlands of Florida.

Nature may be complicated to write about but a gendered outlook can help to enhance the understanding of how to value biodiversity. These books are both a balm and a guide for knowing what has been done to the world, and how to save our collective future.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

'..... the place was terribly crowded. When I finally made it to the table, I couldn't believe my eyes'.

'Lots of good things to eat?'

'No. Nothing but sandwiches were left'.

'Was left'.

'What?'

"Nothing but sandwiches was left.

'Nothing but' is followed by a singular verb'.

'But, 'sandwiches' is plural, isn't it?'

"That's right. But as I said 'nothing but' takes a singular verb. Normally you would say, there were only sandwiches on the table. In this case, you use the plural 'were'. But when you use 'nothing but', you use the singular 'was'. Nothing but crumbs was on the plate. Nothing was on the plate but crumbs'.

'Things weren't that bad in my case. At least I had sandwiches. And guess who I met at the party?'

'You tell me'.

'Mr. Jain, my physics teacher'.

'Did you cozy-up to him?'

'Co... what?'

'Cozy, rhymes with 'nosey'. To 'cozy-up' means 'to try to be close, friendly; try to be liked'. For example, Raju is cozying-up to Jaggu in order to make it to the cricket team'.

'That's nothing unusual. Everyone tries to cozy-up the captain'.

'It's cozy-up to the captain'. The expression is usually followed by 'to'.

'Cozy-up' is considered slang by the way. So, did you cozy-up to your teacher?'

'No, I had no time to cozy-up to him. You see, he doesn't like sandwiches and was feeling terribly hungry. So I suggested he go to the Mayuri'.

'Cosy up' is also written without the hyphen, with 's' instead of 'z'.

'The Mayuri!' That's become one of your stamping grounds, hasn't it?'

'Stamping ground? What does it mean?'

'A stamping ground is a place 'where a person spends much of his time', his favourite place!'

'If that's what stamping ground means, then Mayuri is certainly not one of my stamping grounds. It's the small tea shop next to it. My friends and I meet there after school'.

'So the tea shop is an after school stamping ground?'

'Yes.'

'What did your teacher think of Mayuri?'

"He didn't like it one bit. When he went in, he was told that the kitchen staff were on strike. All that they could offer him were cheese sandwiches!'

* * * *

'A nice man is a man of nasty ideas' – Jonathan Swift

K Subrahmanian
S. Upendran
21-06-1994

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on R. Ashwin, who retired from international cricket

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
Who was Ashwin's opponent in his Test debut?

QUESTION 2
Ashwin was part of two ICC tournament-winning Indian teams. Which were the tournaments?

QUESTION 3
In which year did Ashwin win the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year and ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year awards?

QUESTION 4
In the context of his career, what is common to the following Test matches: against West Indies at Mumbai (2011) and Antigua (2106), versus England at Chepauk (2021) and against Bangladesh at Chennai (2024)?

QUESTION 5
Ashwin belongs to an elite club in Test cricket along with Shane Warne and Stuart Broad. What are the achievements particular to this trio?

QUESTION 6
Against which two nations has Ashwin taken 100 or more wickets in Tests?

QUESTION 7
With which legendary spinner does Ashwin share the record for the most Player-of-the-series honours in Test cricket with 11 awards to his name?

Visual question: Ashwin is being congratulated after scalping the first of the 537 Test victims. Who was the batter? THE HINDU

ANSWERS TO THE PREVIOUS DAY'S QUIZ:
1. Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution outlawed slavery on December 18, 1865? **Ans:- 13th Amendment** 2. Which Swiss-born German citizen was born on this day with styles rooted in expressionism, cubism, and surrealism? **Ans:- Paul Klee** 3. What happened on this day during Donald Trump's presidency? **Ans:- He became the third U.S. president to be impeached by the House of Representatives** 4. Name this TV special, an adaptation of Dr. Seuss's classic children's book, aired for the first time on this day, in 1996, and became a holiday staple. **Ans:- How the Grinch Stole Christmas!** 5. Two Hollywood celebrities, who, although have never worked together in the same film, were born on this day, one in 1963 and the other in 1946. **Ans:- Brad Pitt, Steven Spielberg** 6. Name the British guitarist of the rock band the Rolling Stones was born on this day. **Ans:- Keith Richards 7.** Identify this Czech writer and later, President, who died on this day in 2011. **Ans:- Václav Havel**

Early Birds
Piyali Tuli – Tamal Biswas – Sonali Das – Sumana Dutta – Siddhartha Viswanathan

Word of the day

Diabolical:
of, relating to, or characteristic of the devil

Synonyms: sinister, malicious, evil

Usage: *The police quickly mobilised to track down the diabolical criminals before they struck again.*

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌdaɪ.əˈbɒl.ɪ.kəl/

Pronunciation: bit.ly/diabolicalnew

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Pedestrian signals get timers

They have been installed in the south and west divisions of the BTP, as well as in the CBD area

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Pedestrians in the city have often found it difficult to cross roads, especially busy junctions, despite the presence of pedestrian signals, as the green light glows only for a few seconds before the traffic starts moving. Now, just like timers for traffic signals, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has installed timers for pedestrian signals in some parts of the city.

These timers have been installed in 165 signals under the AI-powered Adaptive Traffic Control System (ATCS) signals.

"In many parts of the Central Business District (CBD), especially at the junction near General Post Office (GPO) or Balekundri Circle, I used to cross the road in installments as the vehicles would start moving by the time I was done covering half the distance. Last week, I noticed that even pedestrian signals have timers now and if I have more than 10 seconds left, then I easily cross the road without worrying about traffic," said Rajeshwari. S, a government employee who works in the CBD.

The Bengaluru Traffic police have installed timers for pedestrian signals in the Central Business District. JAHNAVI T.R.

The traffic police said that these timers have been installed for two reasons. "The first is obviously pedestrian safety while crossing roads. The second is to promote better traffic flow. Pedestrians usually have no idea of when signals change and if they keep walking around all the time, it affects traffic flow. Instead of mixed flow, segregating pedestrian traffic will help vehicular traffic move better," M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), told *The Hindu*.

Pedestrian accidents

Year	Accidents	Fatalities	Killed
2022	1,034	248	248
2023	1,260	284	287
2024 (up to November 30)	1,069	217	217

Source: BTP

The timers have currently been installed in the south and west divisions of the BTP along with the CBD area. "This is phase 1 of ATCS signals and as and when the project expands, more pedestrian signals will get these timers," Mr. Anucheth said.

Pedestrian safety on Bengaluru roads has long been a concern. The traffic police noted that this year, the number of fatalities in pedestrian accidents dropped compared to previous years.

In 2022, there were 1,034 pedestrian accidents, out of which 248 were fatal. In 2023, 1,260 pedestrian accidents occurred with 284 fatal accidents that claimed 287 lives. This year (up to November 30), there have been 1,069 pedestrian accidents with 217 fatalities.

"There has been a tremendous drop in fatal accidents when compared to last year," Mr. Anucheth said.

When asked about the reasons for this, he said, "There were a lot of accident black spots in the city and pedestrians used to cross the roads in these high-risk areas. But we focused on the installation of pedestrian guard lines, higher medians and encouraged citizens to take skywalks which led to a reduction in number of fatal pedestrian accidents."

K-RIDE installs India's longest single-span U-girder on suburban rail's Mallige Line

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

K-RIDE successfully installed the first 31-metre-long single-span precast U-girder – the longest in India – on the Mallige Line of the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project (BSRP).

K-RIDE officials stated that the U-girder, cast at Gollahalli in January 2024, was launched between 9.45 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Tuesday at Yeshwantpur as part of the construction work for the Baiyappanahalli-Chikkabanavara line.

"U-girders are U-shaped, pre-tensioned, and precast structures commonly used in rail-based public transport projects. Their design enhances quality and expedites construction by reducing the need for multiple foundations and piers due to their extended length. The U-Girder is a critical structural component of the elevated track. It forms the base for laying the tracks and other systems component such as traction and signaling," a official explained.

As part of its ongoing Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project, K-RIDE recently launched India's first 31-metre span precast U-girder for Corridor-2, the Mallige Line, at Yeshwantpur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The installation was carried out using two high-capacity cranes, ensuring precision and safety throughout the process, according to officials. K-RIDE has stated that 450 U-girders will be installed on the 8 km elevated section of the Mallige Line between Hebbal and Yeshwantpur. To date, nearly 60 U-girders have been cast at Gollahalli.

Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd. (K-RIDE) is the government agency responsible for executing the 149-km BSRP.

BWSSB to hold water adalat today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold water adalat on Thursday, between 9.30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to address issues relating to water billing, delay in providing water supply, sanitary connections and delay in converting from domestic to non-domestic connection.

For any problems regarding the water supply, people may contact the 24x7 call centre: helpline number 1916.

Complaints can also be filed via WhatsApp on 8762228888, the release stated.

K.V. Narayana bags Sahitya Akademi Award for *Nudigala Alivu*

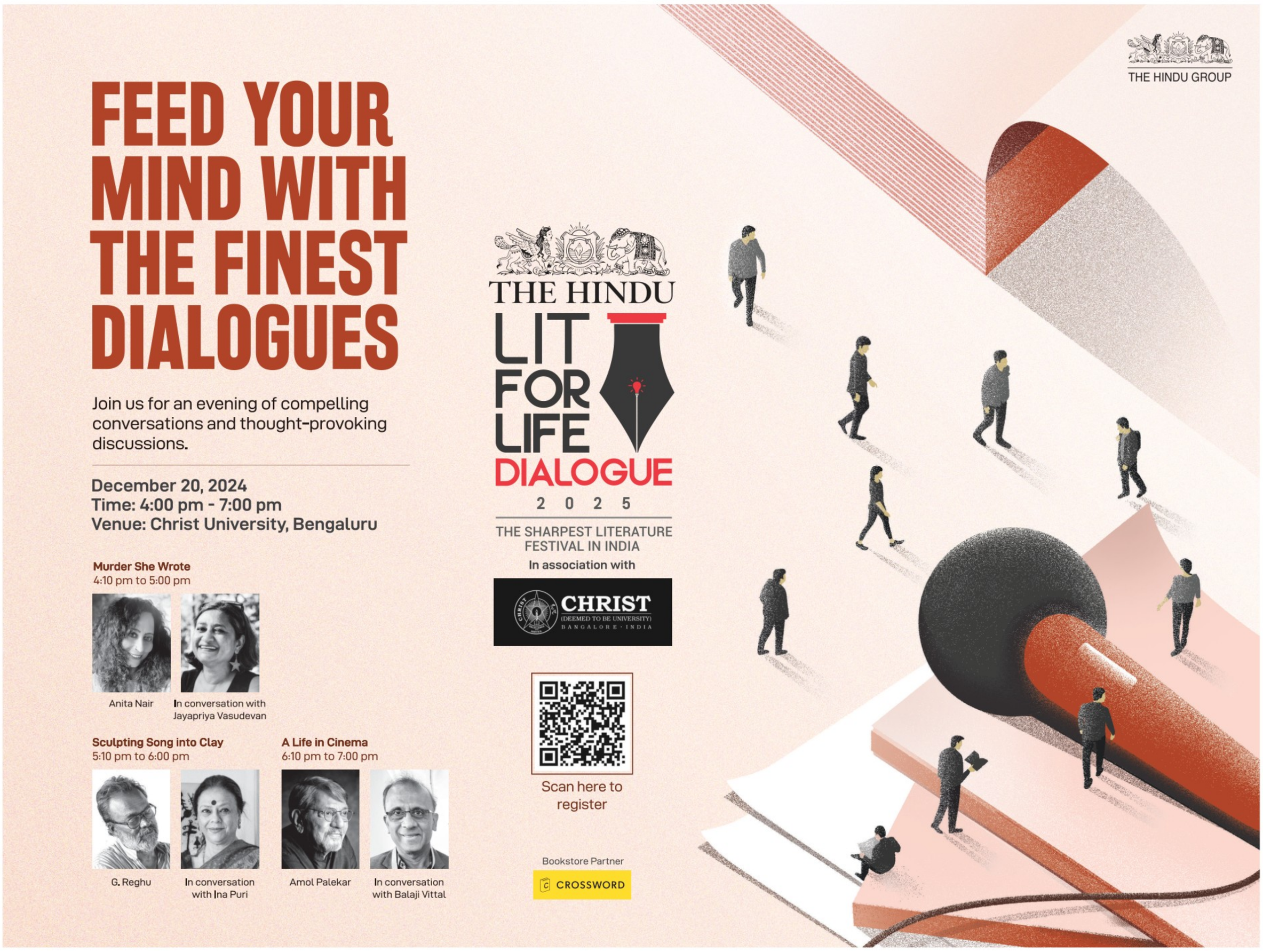
Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Kannada critic, linguist and writer K.V. Narayana won the Sahitya Akademi Award for 2024 for the book *Nudigala Alivu*.

The award was announced to Prof. Narayana in the category of 'literary criticism', along with Marathi author Sudhir Rasal, and Telugu writer Penugonda Lakshminarayana. *Nudigala Alivu*, that was published in 2018 by Harivu Books.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Prof. Narayana said he is happy to be receiving the award for the book which talks about the death of language. The book debates what disappearance of languages mean to cultures, how it happens and what is the right way to address the issue of languages fading away.

The Sahitya Akademi on Wednesday announced its annual awards in 21 languages for books published between January 2018 to December 2022, including eight books of poetry, three novels, two short stories, three essays, three books of literary criticism, one play and one research work. Awards for works in Bengali, Dogri and Urdu will be declared at a later stage.



'No change in period to complete probe or police custody in BNSS'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has clarified that there is no change in period to complete the investigation in criminal cases or the police custody of the accused persons in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) despite a minor tweak in the language used to describe the period when compared to the provision of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C).

"A slight tweak in the new regime qua 187(3) of BNSS in juxtaposition to Section 167(2) of the earlier regime of the Cr.P.C. has not changed the purpose of the provision," the HC said. It also made it clear that period for completion of investigation in case of an offence for which punishment is up to ten years is 60 days; and for the rest of the offences, for which prescribed punishment is death or life imprisonment of ten years or more, the period for completion of investigation is 90 days.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while upholding the trial court's order of rejecting custody of some of the accused in the case of alleged abetting the suicide of B.M. Mumtaz Ali (52), a businessman and a brother of former Congress MLA B.A. Mohiuddin Bava.

Both the police and the complainant had filed separate petitions questioning the order passed by the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC)-III in Mangaluru rejecting the plea for grant of custody of some of the accused persons for further investigation. The magistrate had pointed out that period custody of arrested persons can be given to police within 40 days in crimes in the present case as investigation is required to be completed within 60 days.

However, it was argued on behalf of the police that the punishment prescribed for abetment to suicide has punishment of 10 years hence period for completion of investigation is 90 days and custody of accused in such cases can be availed upto 60 days of registration of crime.

Declining to accept the contention on behalf of the police, the court upheld magistrate's order stating that in the present crime the offence is punishable only up to ten years and hence the police custody can be available only during the first 40 days and the probe has to be completed within 60 days.

KSLSA settles 38.8 lakh cases in national-level Lok Adalat

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A national-level Lok Adalat held in the State on December 14 has succeeded in amicably settling 38,80,881 cases, which include 2,45,189 that were pending in various courses and 36,35,692 pre-litigation cases pending before various public authorities.

As many as 307 couples in conflict were reunited while finding an amicable resolution to 1,581 matrimonial cases during the day-long Lok Adalat organised by the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority (KSLSA).

Justice V. Kameswar Rao, a judge of the High Court of Karnataka and the Executive Chairperson of the KSLSA, told reporters that 5,168 motor vehicle accident claims cases were adjudicated to the satisfaction of the claimants and the insurance companies resulting in awarding of a total compensation of ₹309 crores.

A total 5,033 cases filed for execution of various orders of the courts in land acquisition, motor vehicle accident cases, etc., were also resulted in settlement leading to payment of total ₹287 crore as compensation to beneficiary-litigants during the Lok Adalat, which also witnessed settlement of settled 3,331 partition suits among the litigating family members over partition of properties.

The next national-level Lok Adalat would be held on March 8, 2025.

Withdrawal of Premium FAR Bill hits BBMP's plan of raising more revenue

However, the State government's move protects TDR market and prevents unplanned development

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Several urban planners had raised concerns that Premium Floor Area Ratio would promote unplanned development. FILE PHOTO

The State government withdrawing the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which provided Premium Floor Area Ratio (FAR), may have crushed the hopes of the civic body generating more revenue, but concerns that it will hit the Transferrable Development Rights (TDR) market and promote unplanned development in the city, have been heeded to.

The Bill was passed in both Houses of the legislature in February this year. However, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot returned the Bill to the government expressing concerns. It may be recalled that when the BJP was in power, the Governor did not give assent to the Bill in 2021. But the Congress government yet again drafted the Bill with a few changes. A senior BBMP official said the government wanted to take a chance as the implementation would generate more revenue. The Governor had raised concerns over overlaps of the Premium FAR with Transferrable Development Rights (TDR) given out by the civic agencies, sources said.

The Bill provided for loading Premium FAR up to 60% over and above the FAR allowed on that road depending on the width of the road. Developers had to buy Premium FAR, the cost of which was calculated on the basis of guidance value of the property, from the BBMP. Right now, developers who want to develop more than the available FAR have to buy TDR in the open market and load over the FAR. If BBMP itself was selling Premium FAR, landowners who lost land to public projects and got TDR issued instead of cash compensation, would be hit as this would impact the market for TDR, it was argued. Though the BBMP said that any Premium FAR should have a component of TDR as well, the Governor did not accept this, sources said.

Meanwhile, several urban planners had raised concerns that Premium FAR would promote unplanned development in the city, in contravention to Transit Oriented Development (TOD), as proposed in the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) proposed by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), which allowed FAR up to 5 along Namma Metro corridors. Even the Draft Revised Master Plan - 2031 prepared by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) before CMP opted for the TOD approach, was scrapped to include TOD, which would ensure densification of the city only along the Namma Metro corridors. However, Premium FAR would essentially allow overloading of FAR even on streets as narrow as 30 feet, anywhere in the city, leading to unplanned development.

N.S. Mukunda, civic activist, talking to *The Hindu* said the government scrapping the Bill was a good move as it would increase high density development in the city as well as along the metro line. In a city where the population is growing, unplanned infrastructure growth would simply increase traffic. In the current form, FAR access will be given in commercial areas. For instance if along JC Road where at present traffic movement is slow, further development would choke the road. "It is good that the FAR was scrapped by the government," he said.

Mr. Mukunda said the government can allow FAR in newly developing layouts like Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout and others widening the road. This will also spread the population and pave way for even development.

Amar Mysore, president of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India, expressing unhappiness over the development, said CREDAI had hoped for the enactment of the bill as it would bring revenue. "For a city like Bengaluru, FAR is the need of the hour because infrastructure should grow as rapidly as population," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the schedule property from **Smt. R.M.Jayalakshmi W/o. Late M.Jothi** who represented that she is the absolute owner in possession of the schedule property with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. Public are notified that any person having any rights, titles, claims, or interests in the schedule property or any objection/s of any manner whatsoever to the above transaction are hereby called upon to notify the undersigned with supporting documents within **10 (ten) days** from the date of this public notice, failing which my clients shall complete the sale transaction with the above said owner. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing **BDA Site No.1811**, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore now **BBMP Khata No. 849/1811/841, 7th Main, 3rd Cross, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060,** measuring east to west 58.00 feet and north to south 40.00 feet in total **2320 sq. feet** with building and bounded as follows:

East by : Site No.1480, West by : Road, North by : Site No.1812, South by : Site No.1810.

B. Gopalakrishna Adiga,
Advocate, #26, Bande Mutt, 2nd Cross, 5th Main, Kengeri Satellite Town, Bangalore-560060

Place: Bangalore **Date:** 18/12/2024

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ – 581 301

DISTRICT URBAN DEVELPOMENT CELL, D.C. OFFICE UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT, KARWAR-581 301

Telephone: 08382 221170 Email: ka.uttarakannada.dudc@gmail.com

No: UK/DUDC/AmrutNagarothanaPhase-4/CR/2024-25 **Dated: 17-12-2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, District urban Development Cell, Uttar Kannada district, Karwar invites tenders from eligible KPWD Registered contractors for Amruth Nagarothan-4 Project work as per KTPP Act 1999 Rule 2000 as detailed below through KPPP Portal **(http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Uploading of tender documents on **17-12-2024 at 16.00 hrs,** Pre bid Meeting / Tender for clarification **date: 02-01-2025 at 11.30 hrs,** Last date for uploading of completed tender documents on **16-01-2025 at 17.00 hrs,** Opening of Technical Bid: **18-01-2025 at 17.30 hrs & Opening of Financial Bid : 20-01-2025 at 11.00 hrs.**

ULB Name	Indent Number
CMC Karwar	DMA/2024-25/BD/ WORK_INDENT 32171

All other required tender information may be availed from the website **http:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and **http://www.uttarakannadadudc.mrc.gov.in/.**or Project Director, DUDC, UK Office .

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
District Urban Development Cell
DC Office, U.K. District, Karwar

DIPR/ADK/MCA/636/24-25 dt. 17.12.2024

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD

'JAL BHAVAN', No. 6, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Main Road, Bengaluru-560029.
Ph: 080-41106508
email: cekwbbng@gmail.com Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION - 2ND CALL
(Through KPPP only)

No.KWB/TEC/CE(B)/HSK/UGD-Balance/914/2024-25 Dt: 17.12.2024.

Name of the work : "Construction of 1.82 MLD STP with allied works, Providing and laying outfall sewer line, Supply, Erection, Electrification & Commissioning of DG sets, 11 KV express feeder line through Design, Build and Transfer (DBT) Mode (Lumpsum -no variation) under UGD scheme to Hosakote City under UIDST". **Indent No. : KUWSDB/ 2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT256 Call-2**

For further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (B),
KUWS & D BOARD, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/3846/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public in general is hereby informed that **Mr/Mrs. Sridhar M.V** is purchasing the below mentioned property from Mr. P Subramanian & Mrs. Bhuvana Subramanian

All the piece and parcel of immovable property now being a vacant site bearing Corporation assigned Municipal No. 41, PID No. 73-183-41 (earlier HASB Khata No. 715/A even earlier Site No. 4, Old Site No. 7 formed in K.B. Munivenkata Reddy Layout, 5th Cross Road, Konena Agrahara, Varthur Hobli), 1st A Cross, 'B' Block, Vinayaka Nagar, Konena Agrahara, Corporation Ward 73, Bangalore, measuring East to West 30 Feet or 9.14 Meters, Nort to South 40 Feet or 12.19 Meters, totally admeasuring about 1200 Sq. Ft or 111.41 Sq. Mtrs or thereabouts together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows:

East by : Private Property (Old Site No. 5)
West by : Private Property (Old Site No. 3)
North by : Private Property (Old Site No. 4)
South by : 25 Feet Road

Any person(s) having any rights, title, claim or interest in the above said property, by way of sale, inheritance, possession, succession, mortgage, lien, lease, gift or otherwise howsoever in respect of the same, shall intimate the objection in writing to the undersigned with supporting documents thereof within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice; or else any such claims by anyone shall not be considered and shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned, and my client shall proceed to conclude the negotiations and no claims shall be entertained thereafter.

Sd/-
Raghavendra H.R.
Advocate
#155, 2nd Floor, Ambara Arcade, 9th Cross, Bhadrappa Layout, Hebbal Ring Road, Bangalore - 560094 (Communication Address)
Telephone No.: 9945431274
Email: solicitorschamber@gmail.com
Bangalore Date: 18 Dec 2024

TAMILNADU POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

E-tender through e-procurement platform at **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** as per the instructions in the tender specification Coal (SHIP) – 178 Dated 18.12.2024 for time chartering of One Self-Trimming Panamax / Kamsarmax gearless vessel for coastal movement of coal by TNPGCL:

Sl No.	Specification No.	Description of Work / Materials	Due Date & Time for submission of e-tender
1	Coal (SHIP) - 178 Dated 18.12.2024	TIME CHARTERING OF ONE SELF-TRIMMING PANAMAX/ KAMSARMAX GEARLESS BULK CARRIER VESSEL WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 01.02.2025 to 15.02.2025 FOR A PERIOD OF 3 MONTHS +/- 15 DAYS CHOPTION	04.01.2025 Upto 14:30 Hours

Submission of E-Tender: THROUGH THIS HYPERLINK **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specification : **17:00 Hrs. on 19.12.2024**
Date & Time of closing of download of Tender Specification : **14:30 Hrs on 04.01.2025**

Soft copy of Tender Specification:

The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website **www.tangedco.gov.in,** from Tamil Nadu Government Web site i.e. **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and from National Informatics Center website **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** free of cost.

Tender will be opened: Through the NIC portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/5562/Tender/2024 **CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL / TNPGCL / CHENNAI - 2**

PUNJAB ROADS & BRIDGES DEVELOPMENT BOARD
SCO 61-62, PHASE -2, S.A.S. NAGAR (MOHALI)

e-Procurement Notice

The Chief Engineer & Empowered Officer, SRRDA, Punjab on behalf of Government of Punjab invites the percent rate bids in electronic tendering system regarding **"Request For Proposal (RFP) for Engagement of Project Management Unit (PMU) at SRRDA for supervising, monitoring & quality check for roads to be taken up for construction/up-gradation with CTB & Full Depth Reclamation (FDR)Technology in Punjab under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)"** from the reputed firms/consultants/companies having experience in similar nature of work.

The Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 18/12/2024 (dd/mm/yyyy)

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **https://pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

Last Date & Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 03/01/2025 (dd/mm/yyyy) upto 15:00 Hours(time). For further details please log on to https://pmgsytenders.gov.in.

Chief Engineer
State Rural Road Development Agency
O/o Punjab Roads & Bridges Development Board
SCF 61-62, Phase-2, Sector 54, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali),
Chandigarh, India -160 055
Tel. :+91 172 5134620, Email: srrda.punjab@punjab.gov.in
NA/12/27026/2023/40067

SPORTS & YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Government of Odisha

No. SYS-SEB-Events-0008-2024 - 36770 /SYS **Dated:17/12/2024**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Name of the Assignment : Conducting State-wide National & International Marathons for Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha

Sports & Youth Services Department, Govt. Of Odisha invites "Expression of Interest" from the eligible bidders to undertake the service of **"Conducting State-wide National & International Marathons for Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha".**

Eligible bidders may furnish their "Expression of Interest" complete in all respect through **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** scribing **"EOI for Conducting State-wide National & International Marathons for Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha"** on or before **30/12/2024**. The proposals received beyond the stipulated timeline will be out rightly rejected. The client reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the proposals and terminate the selection process without assigning any reason thereof.

For details on EOI for the proposed assignment, please visit the websites : **https://tendersodisha.gov.in / https://sports.odisha.gov.in/ .**

Director, Sports
SPORTS & YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT,
Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar-751012, Odisha

TT-12 OIPR-29001/11/0032/2425

NKGSB Bank
NKGSB Co-op. Bank Ltd.

Recovery Dept : Laxmi Sadan, 361, V. P. Road, Girgaum, Mumbai- 400 004
Tel No: (022) 67545020/21/25/40/48/73/98; Email id - recovery@nkgsb-bank.com
HRBR Branch : No.25, Nehru Road, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560 084
M: 8655699421; E : hrbr111@nkgsb-bank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
(UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, the **Physical Possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **NKGSB CO-OP.BANK LTD.,** the secured creditor will be sold on **"As is Where is", "As is What is"** and **"Whatever there is basis"** and **"WITHOUT RECOURSE"** for the recovery of respective amount, due to the **NKGSB CO-OP. BANK LTD** (Secured Creditor) from the respective Borrower(s)/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) as specified here under:

The auction will be conducted on **24.01.2025** between **11:00 a.m. to 01.00 p.m.** with unlimited extension of five minutes on **website https://www.bankeauctions.com** Last date for payment of EMD & submission of the documents at Recovery Dept or any of the nearest branch is **23.01.2025** by **4:00 pm.**

NAME OF BORROWER(S) /PARNTER(S)/MORTGAGOR(S)/ GUARANTOR(S)

1. Mr. Manohar K, 2. Mrs. Anitha V.R.

Description of Mortgaged Properties	Reserve Price (Rs. in lacs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. In Lacs)	BID INCREMENTAL AMOUNT (Rs. in lacs)
Flat No.502 (3 BHK) admeasuring 1300.00 square feet super built up area, North facing, on 4th Floor, apartment/building known as "TEJOMAYAM ENCLAVE" together with 265.00 square feet of undivided share, House list No.4, Old Khatha No.964, thereafter BBMP serial No.573, New BBMP Khatha No.1333/964/4, situated at KOTHANUR village, Uttarahalli, Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluka, within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahangar Palike, Gottigere ward No.194, Kothanur, Bengaluru and measuring :East to West 60-0 feet and North to South 40-0 feet, in all measuring 2400.00 square feet.	45.85	4.59	0.25

Inspection on Demand Contact	Mr.Manjunath Shenvi M: 9483490656
Date of Demand Notice	11/12/2023
Outstanding amount as on 30.11.2024 (Rs. in Lacs)	Rs. 52.71
Date of Physical Possession	23/08/2024
Details of Encumbrance known to the secured creditor Bank: Any unpaid property dues, utility bills any other encumbrance not known to authorised officer.	

The online Auction will be conducted through C1 India (P) Ltd web portal **https://www.bankeauctions.com** The terms and condition of sale is displayed on **https://www.bankeauctions.com** as well as the banks website on **https://www.nkgsb-bank.com** The bidders are directed to upload their bids alongwith documentary evidence on **https://www.bankeauctions.com** In case bidders needs assistance they may contact for technical support to **Mr.Bhavik Pandya** on **8866682937** or **Support Mobile No 7291981124/25/26 of C1 India (P) Ltd.** The physical documents are to be submitted /post to **NKGSB Co-op. Bank Ltd., General Manager – Recovery,** Laxmi Sadan, 361, V. P.Road, Girgaum, Mumbai - 400 004. Queries may be directed to **recovery@nkgsb-bank.com**

STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The borrower(s) & Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 19.12.2024

Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER,
NKGSB Co-op. Bank Ltd

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿರ್ಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ನಂ-2, ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಿದ್ದಾಪುರ- 576229. ಕುಂದಾಪುರ (ತಾ), ಉಡುಪಿ (ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ), ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ

ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ವಾಜಯೋವಿ-2/ಪಿಐ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/07-11/2024-25/1180-1183 & 1185 ದಿ:12/12/2024

ಪ್ರೀ-ಕ್ವಾಲೀಪಿಕೇಶನ್ ಕಂ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣಾ ವೇದಿಕೆ) (ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಂ)

ವಾರಾಹಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ 4701-ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಕಾಲುವೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿತ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು KPWD Class IV & Above ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ:

1. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.
2. ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ರೂ. 21.09ಲಕ್ಷ, ರೂ. 21.05ಲಕ್ಷ, ರೂ. 29.54ಲಕ್ಷ, ರೂ. 414.69ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ರೂ. 415.00ಲಕ್ಷ
3. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ರೂ. 0.50ಲಕ್ಷ, ರೂ. 0.50ಲಕ್ಷ, ರೂ. 0.59ಲಕ್ಷ, ರೂ. 6.25ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ರೂ. 6.23 ಲಕ್ಷ
4. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ದಿ:16/12/2024
5. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ/ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ (queries if any) ಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿ:19/12/2024ರ ಸಮಯ 5.00ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.2 ವಾಜಯೋವಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಆಖತ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ/ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ/ಇ-ಮೈಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು.
6. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕುರಿತಾದ ಪೂರ್ವಾಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿ:19/12/2024ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ.2 ವಾಜಯೋವಿ ಇವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವುದು.
7. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:23/12/2024ರಂದು ಸಮಯ 5.00ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ.
8. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ:26/12/2024ರ ಸಮಯ ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00ಘಂಟೆ.
9. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಅಥವಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ನಂ-2 ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.
10. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ, ಮಾರ್ಪಾಡು ಅಥವಾ ಇತರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ, http://www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ನಂ-2, ವಾರಾಹಿ ಜಲಾಶಯ ಯೋಜನಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಸಿದ್ದಾಪುರ, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

MRS. R. AMUDADEVI (60)
Senior Executive, Telephones, The Hindu, Chennai
passed away on 18-12-2024
Whatsapp: 9841726989

REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

N.KAMESWARI
(Wife of Late **Dr. N.Jayaraman**)
06.01.1925 - 19.12.2021
Deeply missed by all Family Members and Friends

TAMILNADU MINERALS LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Government of Tamil Nadu)
No.31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005. Phone No.044-29862018, 28511972
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER WITH FORWARD BIDDING

1	Description	Sale of dimensional black granite blocks from Yellikaradu Bit II (Top, Middle & Bottom pits) quarry of TAMIN, Tamil Nadu	Sale of dimensional black granite blocks from Mahimandalam (Portion-A, Portion-B, Portion-C & Portion-D) quarries of TAMIN, Tamil Nadu (4 quarries)
2	Tender No. & Date Tender IDs	**1082/EX-1/2024, Dated.18.12.2024** 2024_TNMIN_511526_1	**913/EX-1/2024-1, 913/EX-1/2024-2, 913/EX-1/2024-3, 913/EX-1/2024-4, Dated.18.12.2024** 1. 2024_TNMIN_511533_1 2. 2024_TNMIN_511546_1 3. 2024_TNMIN_511559_1 4. 2024_TNMIN_511562_1
3	Bid submission end date	**20.01.2025 up to 1600 hrs.**	**07.01.2025 up to 1600 hrs.**
4	Technical bid opening date	**21.01.2025 at 1600 hrs.**	**08.01.2025 up to 1600 hrs.**
5	Tender form fee & EMD	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees two thousand only) or equivalent USD 25 (Non-refundable) Rs.5,90,000/- (Rupees five lakh ninety thousand only) or equivalent USD 7200	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees two thousand only) or equivalent USD 25 (Non-refundable) Rs.3,54,000/- (Rupees Three lakh fifty four thousand only) or equivalent USD 4200 per quarry

Note: For further details please visit Tamilnadu e-tendering portal: **https://tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/5539/TENDER/2024 **GENERAL MANAGER (Finance)**

KALYAN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION VIJAYAPUR DIVISION

NO:KKRTC:VJP:TR:COMM:5002:2024-25 Dated:18.12.2024

E-Tender Publication [No: 713/23/E-22]

Vijayapur Division invited E-Tender(Through E-Procurement) for Commercial Shops, Refreshment Rooms, Open Space of Various Bus Stands comes under this Division. Detailed tender schedule is as below.

1) Last Date for submitting online application: **06.01.2025** at 17.30 PM.

2) E-Tender Opening **Date :08.01.2025** at 10.00 Am onward

For details visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or Contact D.T.O :7760992252 or Commercial Case Worker (Traffic Section) @ Divisional Office during office hours.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/535/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024-25

Sd/- Divisional Controller, K.K.R.T.C Vijayapur Division.

Doctors advise caution while using gas geysers in bathrooms

Install a gas geyser only in well-ventilated bathrooms or opt for an exhaust fan if they are poorly ventilated, say doctors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

When a 14-year-old girl stepped into the bathroom for a shower recently, little did she know that she would end up in a life-threatening situation. When her mother realised that the girl was locked in the bathroom for a long time, she pushed open the door and found her in an unresponsive state.

The child was rushed to the hospital and is now battling for life, relying on artificial ventilation and life support medication. Tests revealed dangerously high carboxyhemoglobin levels, pointing to carbon monoxide (CO) intoxication caused by a gas geyser in the bathroom.

Doctors at Manipal Hospital, Old Airport Road, where she is being treated, said incomplete combustion of LPG used in gas geysers, especially the flue-less ones, emit toxic gases, CO being the most potent of them.

CO intoxication

Symptoms of CO intoxication are related to oxygen deprivation as this toxic gas displaces oxygen from the bloodstream in view of its enhanced affinity to haemoglobin.

Furthermore, symptoms related to CO exposure range from transient loss of consciousness to seizures, coma and heart ischemia (similar to a heart attack).

Risk of death

Pointing out that gas geysers can cause serious health issues and even death if not used safely, doctors recommend that all manufacturers should implement precautionary measures and users should follow safety protocol. People should install a gas geyser only in well-ventilated bathrooms or should opt for an exhaust fan, if a bathroom is poorly ventilated, to efficiently clear away the toxic gas.

Symptoms related to CO exposure range from transient loss of consciousness to seizures, coma and heart ischemia. FILE PHOTO

Call for better collaboration

A. Sivagnanam, Head of the Department and Consultant - Paediatric Emergency at Manipal Hospital, said the girl's case is a wake-up call for collaboration among the public, manufacturers and government bodies to prevent such tragedies.

"Manufacturers should develop and adhere to safety standards that minimise toxic emissions and the government should establish policies mandating safe installations and monitor compliance rigorously," the doctor said.

She said hospitals must document and report CO poisoning cases to build a robust database for informed policy-making. "Whether daily exposure to this toxic agent for prolonged periods causes slow organ damage and symptoms related to the heart and brain are yet to be investigated," she added.

K.S. Ravindranath, Director of the State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, said if a gas geyser is fitted in a poorly ventilated space, while heating water, the geyser depletes the oxygen available in the surroundings to generate heat. This often leads to an environment with reduced oxygen. "This results in the inhalation of CO. Due to the reduced level of oxygen in the surroundings, the cells in the body fail to absorb oxygen and rather the body inhales CO, which results in a hypoxic situation," he said.

Brain and lung damage

N.K. Venkataramana, Founder Chairman and Director Neurosciences at Brains Super Speciality Hospital, said inhaling CO can be toxic both for the brain and the lungs.

"Basically it can damage the lung epithelium and reduce the oxygen exchange. The brain suffers due to lack of sufficient oxygen. The extent of damage depends on the type of chemical concentration and duration of exposure," he explained.

Concerns over mining area proposal near Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

A proposal to divert 48.2 hectares of forest land for mining in Tumakuru has been flagged by environment activists who say that the project, if implemented, will result in felling of 17,206 trees and also affect the rich faunal diversity in the area.

The proposed project is the establishment of Sarangapani Iron and Manganese Ore Mine by Mineral Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.

The proposed mining project will have to be taken up within the deemed eco-sensitive zone of Bukkapatna Chinkara Sanctuary under the administrative control of the Tumakuru Territorial Forest Division. FILE PHOTO

Letter to Minister

Giridhar Kulkarni, a wildlife conservationist, in a letter written to Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, has urged the Karnataka government to reject the mining project proposed in Gollarahalli, Lakmenahalli, Hosahalli, Kodihalli, Thonalapura villages of Chikkanayakanahalli Taluk, Tumakuru district, as it is within the deemed eco-sensitive zone of Bukkapatna Chinkara Sanctuary falling under the administrative control of the Tumakuru Territorial Forest Division.

Last year, a Cabinet subcommittee meeting held under the chairmanship of Mr. Khandre had given in-principle approval for declaring eco-sensitive zones in six forest areas, including Kappattagudda, Bukkapatna, Kammasandra, Nagarahole, Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary.

"The area is rich in faunal diversity with the presence of wild animals like leopard, sloth bear, wolf, pangolin, and four-horned antelope which are listed in Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Also, animals like jackals, striped hyenas, porcupines, jungle cats, wild pigs, monitor lizards, Indian rock pythons and many other species are found here. The region also has a diversity of avifaunal species," he has said in the letter.

What the DCF said

The Deputy Conservator of Forest's (DCF) remarks in the proposal seeking forest clearance also mention that though the proposed land is not part of any National Park, Wildlife Sanctuary, Biosphere Reserve, Tiger Reserve, Elephant Corridor, etc, and is located around 7 km away from the Bukkapatna Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary, the proposed mining area and approach road falls within the eco-sensitive zone of the Sanctuary's default 10 km if eco-sensitive zone is not notified. However, the DCF has recommended the proposal for further consideration. Mr. Kulkarni said there are villages and habitations around the proposed site and the people there are mainly dependent on agriculture, which is dependent on these forests as it is the main source of water which forms the catchment area.

"This region is perhaps one of the last remaining lung spaces of a district like Tumakuru which has very less forest cover compared to many other districts."

"The proposed project if implemented will result in felling of 17, 206 trees," he added.

Mr. Kulkarni also said the impacts of mining go beyond the extraction of ore and the dumping of the tailings as additional roads have to be built through the forest and grasslands to provide access for giant earth moving machines and it is clear from the proposal itself that user agency has sought diversion of forest land for the approach road.

Gujarati writer bags Kuvempu national award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Gujarati writer Himanshi Indulal Shelat has been selected for the Kuvempu Rashtriya Puraskar, the national award instituted in memory of the late poet laureate Kuvempu, for the year 2024.

The Kuvempu National Award selection committee, headed by B.L. Shankar, president of Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust, unanimously selected Dr. Shelat for this prestigious award. The Trust instituted this national annual literary award in 2013 in the name of Kuvempu to recognise litterateurs who had contributed to any language recognised by the Constitution of India. The award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation.

Dr. Shelat, a well-known Gujarati writer, has brought new sensibilities to her writings and enriched Indian literature through her works in Gujarati, stated a press release. She has authored about 20 books and has received multiple awards, including the Sahitya Akademi Award.

The award will be presented in January in Bengaluru.

Himanshi Indulal Shelat

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, 1ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ,
ಲೋ.ಇ. ಪೂರಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು. ದೂ: 08022122856
Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 12/2024–25
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17–12–2024

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ನಂ2 ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–2000ರನ್ವಯ ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1, ನಿಯಮಗಳಂತೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಎಸ್ ಕ್ಲಬ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಮತ್ತು ಬಿ.ಎಸ್.ಎನ್.ಎಲ್ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ (ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಹಂಚಿಕೆ ಕ್ರ ಸಂ: 1 ಮತ್ತು 2 ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ, ಕ್ರ ಸಂ: 3 ನೇ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ, ಹಾಗೂ ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ: 4 ರಿಂದ 10 ರ ವರೆಗೆ (ಇತರೆ) ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಪಿಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಂದ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೋಸಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇಎಂಡಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ಯಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.12.2024 ರಿಂದ 24.12.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ

2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.12.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

3. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.12.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಕ್ಕೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನಂ.2ನೇ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/3837/Zen/2024-25

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.49, 4th & 5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan,
Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560001. Phone No. 080-22265383
Website: www.kiadb.in email: cdoce1@kiadb.in

No.IADB/ENGG/ EPTND Service -1/585/2024-25 Date: 18.12.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR
(Through GoK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KIADB is inviting tender under Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible service provider under two cover system for the following work:

Name of the work: Development of web services framework for integration with single window system and web platform for KIADB online services including maintenance of software for a period of 1 year.

Applicants may download bidding documents from the e-procurement portal **htpps://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Last Date for submission of bids is: **31.12.2024 upto 4.30 pm.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1
K.I.A.D.B, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3844/AKAR/2024-25

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building,
Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No. DGM-2/BSWML/Tend/09/24-25 Date: 18.12.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(through GOK KPP Only)

1. The Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table through KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs) Excluding GST	EMD (Amount in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract completion period
1	Operation and Maintenance of existing scientific landfill sites (Mittiganahalli, Kannuru) Rejuvenation and Water quality improvements of lakes, Scientific Closure of completed landfill sites in Mahadevapura Constituency.(Call-2)	4800.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance Rs.4700000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/Scheduled Bank	As per KPP portal	11 Months (Including Monsoon Period)

Note:
1. Pre bid meeting will be held on 26.12.2024 at 15:00 hours in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 52.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the KPPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours on 08-01-2025 and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be opened through e-portal only on 09.01.2025 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPPP portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

DIPR/CP/3847/AKAR/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number		Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date and time for opening of tender
1	South West-1	BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/3702/2024-25 Date: 16.12.2024 (6th Call)	1	₹ 70,57,523/- / ₹ 1,41,150/-	30.12.2024 upto 4:00 pm	01.01.2025 after 3:00 pm
			2	₹ 27,66,985/- / ₹ 55,350/-		
		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/3702/2024-25 Date: 16.12.2024 (5th Call)	3	₹ 58,97,118/- / ₹ 1,17,943/-		
		BWSSB/EESW-1/TO/PB/3702/2024-25 Date: 16.12.2024 (4th Call)	4	₹ 41,50,698/- / ₹ 83,050/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-1)		
2	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/2957/2024-25 Date: 16.12.2024		₹ 38,10,346/- / ₹ 76,300/-	26.12.2024 upto 4:00 pm	30.12.2024 after 4:00 pm
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-1)		

Office of the Engineer in Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

3	UFW-2	BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/426/2024-25 Date: 17.12.2024		₹ 94,81,983/- / ₹ 1,90,000/-	26.12.2024 upto 4:00 pm	27.12.2024 after 4:05 pm
4		BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/422/2024-25 Date: 17.12.2024		₹ 38,74,371/- / ₹ 77,500/-		
5		BWSSB/EE(UFW)-2/PB/424/2024-25 Date: 17.12.2024		₹ 37,45,203/- / ₹ 75,000/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (UFW-2)		

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

6	North-2	BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/2110/2024-25 Date: 13.12.2024 (5th Call)		₹ 23,08,356/- / ₹ 50,000/-	26.12.2024 upto 3:00 pm	27.12.2024 after 4:00 pm
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-2)		

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

7	West-2	BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4308/2024-25 Date: 16.12.2024 (3rd Call)	1	₹ 23,62,359/- / ₹ 47,300/-	31.12.2024 upto 3:00 pm	02.01.2025 after 3:00 pm
		BWSSB/EE(W-2)/PB/4308/2024-25 Date: 16.12.2024 (4th Call)	2	₹ 57,94,746/- / ₹ 1,15,900/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-2)		
8	West-1	BWSSB/EEW-1/PB/4073/2024-25 Date: 18.12.2024		₹ 72,81,314/- / ₹ 1,45,700/-	27.12.2024 upto 4:00 pm	30.12.2024 after 4:30 pm
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)		
9	(North West)-2	BWSSB/EENW-2/TO/PB/4205/2024-25 Date: 17.12.2024		₹ 66,99,931/- / ₹ 1,34,000/-	02.01.2025 upto 4:00 pm	03.01.2025 after 4:30 pm
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (North West)-2		

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

10	(East-2)	BWSSB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT1471/CALL-3	1	₹ 76,85,000/- / ₹ 1,53,700/-	26.12.2024 at 4:00 pm	27.12.2024 at 4:00 pm
		BWSSB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT1485 **(Reserved for SC Category)**	2	₹ 69,39,000/- / ₹ 69,390/-		
		BWSSB/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT1454	3	₹ 65,53,000/- / ₹ 1,31,100/-		
				Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-2)		

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/MIA/3828/2024-25

From Page One

Priyank takes issue with 'judicial activism'

At this juncture, Mr. Kharge told Mr. Ashok, "I am really sorry to say, but in the name of judicial activism, courts are doing both legislative and executive work. You may have received several such directives when you were Revenue Minister." However, Mr. Ashok sought to question why the government had not challenged it before the High Court.

Mr. Kharge further said, "In the garb of judicial activism, they (the courts) are passing legislation. How many times should there be such interference?"

He said: "It is a constitutional right that has been given to this House to form legislation. If they (courts) themselves take up legislation work and start issuing orders regarding executive work, then why should we be there?... This issue should be discussed in the session."

Govt. to change khatas to retain temples located on waqf land as Hindu property

Revenue Minister says the government will issue khatas to schools located on waqf property and will also not disturb farmers

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Stating that the BJP was engaged in a "misleading campaign" on the issue of waqf property for political gains, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda announced in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday that the government had decided to issue khatas for Hindu temples and Hindu *rudrabhoomis* (graveyards) in the name of the respective temple and graveyard even if they were located on waqf property.

Mr. Gowda said the government would also issue khatas for schools located on waqf property, in the name of schools. The government would now register all *khabarstan*, masjid, idgah, madrasa, and dargah as waqf property.

'Won't disturb farmers'

The Minister said the government had decided not to disturb farmers who were granted waqf property under the Land Reforms Act and those who got regrant of Inam land. However, the government would take all steps necessary to protect waqf land encroached by private people, he said, adding that 85% of the encroachers in case of waqf property were Muslims. The Minister said the total extent of waqf property in the State, donated over decades, was 1.12 lakh acres. Of the total extent, 47,263 acres were lost following the Inam Abolition Act. Another 23,620 acres were lost following the Land Reforms Act.

Clarifying stand: Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and Minister for Housing and Waqf Zameer Ahmed Khan speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

IN THE LEGISLATURE

Even after that, another 3,101 acres of land had been acquired over the years for various public purposes, including irrigation projects. Of that, only 20,054 acres had remained with the waqf board. For various reasons, the extent of waqf property came down by 73,000 acres. "Of the remaining, over 17,000 acres had been encroached upon," he said.

Mr. Gowda said the BJP tried to create division among people by spreading false and misleading information over the notices issued with regard to the encroachment of waqf land. The objective of the Opposition party was to gain political mileage, though the BJP too issued notices and changed khatas when it was in power, he said.

The waqf property rules had a history since the British period. The Mysuru rulers also had formed rules to handle such property, he said. The Union government had also brought in Acts to monitor them. In 2016, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs formed the Model Waqf Rules.

"By framing the rules, the Centre issued instructions to remove encroachments. Based on it, the State government issued notices to clear encroachments. The BJP had also made the promise of clearing encroachments in its manifesto," the Minister said.

Mr. Gowda said the government issued khatas in the name of waqf with regard to 9,400 properties since 2004. Among those affected by the change of khata, 9,124 were Muslims and 2,080 were Hindus. "The facts show that more than 85% of waqf property had been encroached by the Muslims. The BJP misled the public to create an impression that Muslims were taking over properties belonging to Hindus in the name of waqf," he alleged.

The Minister maintained that the government had been acting to protect not only waqf property but those belonging to muzrai temples too. The government issued khatas with respect to 5,402 acres in the name of Hindu temples in 2023. Again, in 2024, khatas with regard to 5,287 acres were issued in the name of Hindu temples.

BJP's contention

Earlier, Minister for Waqf Zameer Ahmed Khan gave his response on the issue. He reiterated that the waqf board would not touch the properties where Hindu temples existed and also those properties being cultivated by farmers.

When the Revenue Minister stood to make his statement on the issue, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok and others said that only Mr. Khan should make a statement.

They also demanded that the government withdraw the gazette notification on waqf properties. The Chief Minister intervened to state that waqf properties were being protected as per the Central Act and the State government had no powers to withdraw the notification. Opposing the statement, the BJP members staged a walkout.

Minister responds case by case

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Wednesday said BJP leaders "misled" the public by spreading false information about the notices issued with regard to waqf property and he took up several of them case by case.

For example, referring to the issue of property at Honawad in Vijayapura district, Mr. Gowda said the BJP had alleged that notices had been issued concerning 1,200 acres of land in the village. However, only 11 acres of land in the village was notified as waqf property. "They left the entire population of the village in worry by spreading false information," he said.

Sir MV's school

On allegation that the school where Sir M.V. Visvesvaraya studied at Muddenahalli in Chickballapur district had been termed as waqf property, Mr. Gowda said it was done in 2019 when the BJP was in power. "We have issued the khata for 17 guntas of the particular property in the name of the government school and the remaining one gunta in the name of Dawood Shah Dargah," he said.

'Govt. on a drive to register and protect muzrai assets'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government is committed to protecting muzrai assets, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said in the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

"We have started a campaign to protect farm and non-farm properties owned by temples in the States. We have cleared confusion regarding ownership and registered over 7,000 religious properties since we came to power. In the last few months, we have completed registrations of over 5,000 muzrai properties," the Minister said. He was responding to a question by member N. Ravi Kumar.

Encroachment

He said the government had taken up the issue of encroachment on the 1,198.34 acres of land donated to the Sri Ranganathaswamy temple in Srirangapatna seriously and steps were being taken to clear the encroachments.

RDPR university amendment Bill adopted through division of votes

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to make the Chief Minister the Chancellor of the university, was on Wednesday adopted by the Legislative Council through a division (voting), with the Bill receiving 26 votes in favour as against 25 of the Opposition.

After RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge replied to the queries raised by the Opposition members and defended the Bill saying that they were not doing anything unconstitutional and that it was not politically motivated and sought approval of the House, Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy sought a division of votes.

RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge in the Legislative Council on Wednesday. P.K. BADIGER

Subsequently, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti conducted the voting on the Bill. As the Bill received 26 in favour and 25 against, the Chairman declared the adoption of the Bill.

Sensing that the Opposition might seek a division of votes, Congress members who were sitting in the lobby were asked to come inside even as the Minister was giving his reply.

In the 75-member Legislative Council, the Indian National Congress has 33 members, the Bharatiya Janata Party has 29, and Janata Dal (Secular) has eight, apart from an Independent member. At present, three posts are vacant. The Chairman has a vote which is exercised in case of a tie.

The Bill secures 26 votes in favour and 25 against it in the Legislative Council

Earlier, discussing the Bill, the Opposition members opposed it by saying that it would be like lowering the dignity of the Governor if the Chief Minister replaced him as the Chancellor.

While the Minister defended that the Bill was for facilitating the better functioning of the RDPR University, Opposition members, including C.T. Ravi, T.A. Sharavana, Sashil Namoshi, and S.V. Sankanur termed it as unwarranted.

Puttanna's comments

Ruling party member Puttanna's comments on money involvement in appointments of Syndicate members and Vice-Chancellors and that decisions on such appointments were taken in some private hotels, enraged the Opposition members, resulting in commotion for sometime.

In his reply, Mr. Kharge ruled out that the Bill was politically motivated and gave examples of universities in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh, all ruled by the BJP, having Chief Minister as the Chancellor. He also said there was nothing in the UGC guidelines which prevents making Chief Minister the Chancellor.

Maternal deaths: BJP terms govt. 'murderous', demands criminal case against Health Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Alleging that maternal deaths in government hospitals due to the use of substandard drugs were not confined just to Ballari hospital, the Opposition BJP on Wednesday termed the Congress government "murderous" and demanded the filing of a criminal case against Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao besides ordering a probe monitored by a Karnataka High Court judge.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok has demanded a probe monitored by a High Court judge into maternal deaths.

Participating in a debate in the Legeslative Assembly on maternal deaths allegedly due the use of substandard drugs, BJP member C.N. Ashwath Narayan alleged that the government was "directly involved in the killing of people" as such deaths happened mainly due to the negligence of the government. This triggered a heated exchange of words between the ruling and the Opposition party members.

Dr. Ashwath Narayan alleged that there were instances of doctors sometimes wearing the same gown for multiple operations in government hospitals and the sterilization process was being compromised. There were also instances of buying drugs from outside the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation that supplies medicine to health institutes in the State.

User fee

Taking exception to the user fee collection in government hospitals, he demanded that the system be withdrawn as those services were being offered under the National Health Scheme.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok demanded a probe monitored by a Karnataka High Court judge into the maternal deaths. Maintaining that the problem cannot be solved merely by blacklisting the company, he stressed the need for taking the issue to logical end.

Not satisfied by Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao's defence that the blacklisted company obtained a court stay against the government's action, Mr. Ashok argued that the government should have challenged it before the High Court. He remarked that the government was in the "clutches of medical mafia".

Matter of trust

He expressed fear that people may not trust government hospitals if such incidents occurred and urged the government to take stern action to rebuild trust in them.

Mysuru Development Authority Bill adopted

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Legislative Assembly on Wednesday adopted the Mysuru Development Authority Bill, which is on the lines of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Act.

Piloting the Bill, Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh said the legislation in this regard was being amended to upgrade the planning system for the city's development in the wake of the city's growth indicating that it is attaining a population and status of a metropolitan city.

The population of Mysuru city as per 2011 Census is 8,93,062 and the population of the local planning area is 16,96,577.

"The authority is facing complex challenges due to fast growth and large-scale developments. Therefore it is essential to enact a separate legislation for the Mysuru Urban Development Authority on the lines with the BDA Act for effective administration and management of the financial resources of the authority," Mr. Suresh said. According to him, the proposed law complements coordinated planning and development within the local planning area which is necessary for speedy implementation of the schemes of the authority, and Central and State governments.

While the present version of MUDA had 13 legislators as its members, the proposed one would reduce the number of legislator-members, he said.

Gruha Lakshmi beneficiaries witness Assembly proceedings

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

As many as 21 beneficiaries of the Gruha Lakshmi monthly payment scheme visited the Suvarna Soudha in Belagavi on Wednesday.

They took a bus from the home office of Laxmi Hebbalkar, Minister for Women and Child Development, to the Suvarna Soudha. After being welcomed by officers of the department, they sat in the visitor's gallery to witness the Assembly session. They met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Chairman of the Implementation Committee of the Guarantee Schemes H.M. Revanna, and some legislators and officers. The beneficiaries, who included some members of the third gender, thanked the Chief Minister, who urged them to use the money for productive purposes.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister for Women and Child Development Laxmi Hebbalkar interacting with beneficiaries of Gruha Lakshmi scheme at the Suvarna Soudha on Wednesday.

Ms. Hebbalkar introduced Mabu Bi and Roshan Begum, the mother-in-law and daughter-in-law from Gajendragarh in Gadag district, who have managed to get a borewell drilled using the Gruha Lakshmi payment savings. The Chief Minister also met Mallavva Meti of Raibag who has started a library for rural students, among others.

Mr. Siddaramaiah later told reporters that there was no question of stopping the hugely popular and useful scheme.

Govt. to use modern technology to protect old revenue records

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The State government will use modern technological tools to protect and preserve old revenue records, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said in the Legislative Council here on Wednesday.

"We have called for tenders to buy compactors to preserve old files containing major revenue records in all Revenue Department offices. The pilot project will start soon and it will be extended to all taluks, the Minister said. Around ₹300 crore has been set aside for the project of digitising and preservation of original copies," he said.

He was responding to a question by member Sunil Valyapure.

The Minister said the process of digitising all-important revenue and survey records was being taken up across the State.

'Podi'-free villages

The State government has taken up a special drive to dispose of all 'podi' applications (requests to get mutations and split surveys of land) within a stipulated time frame.

"After introducing some new systems and processes, we have been able to speed up the process and declare as many as 16,644 'podi'-free villages in the State," the Minister said.

‘In Hinduism, no matter how much you try to regiment, there are still elements of fluidity’

Manu Pillai, author and historian, was in Bangalore Literature Festival to discuss the evolution of Hinduism, its encounter with Christianity, and the impact of colonisation and reform on it

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Pillai says it is modernity and colonisation that truly kickstarted the process of creating Hinduism’s sense of self. GETTY IMAGES

A view of the Parthasarathy temple situated at Triplicane in Chennai.

Manu Pillai tells his audience how a Bala Murugan temple deity in Kerala’s Alappuzha district acquired the rather catchy moniker, “Munch Murugan.”

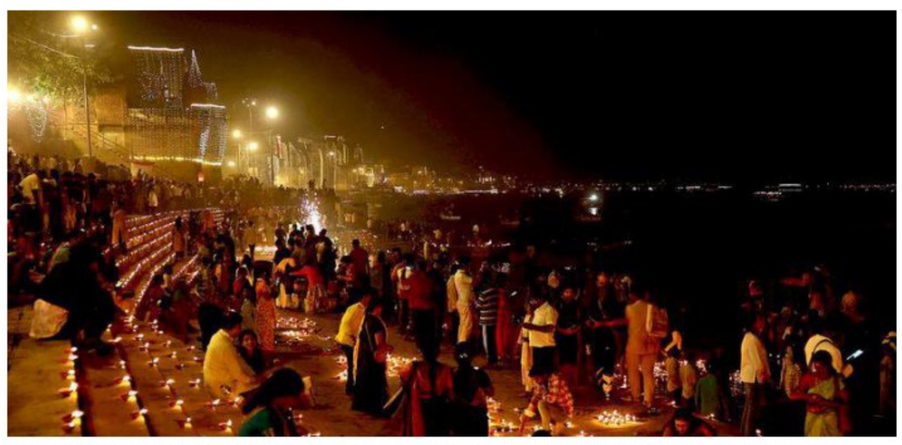
When a small boy in the region fell ill, his parents took him to this Murugan temple to pray for his recovery. “The child had a Munch chocolate in his hand,” says the writer and historian to Manasi Subramaniam, Editor-in-Chief and Vice-President, Penguin Press, Penguin Random House India, who he was in conversation with at the 13th edition of the Bangalore Literature Festival.

The little boy, as the story goes, put his Munch chocolate bar in front of the deity and “miraculously” recovered. “Since then the deity is called Munch Murugan and everybody who goes to the temple places, not any chocolate, but Munch in front of this deity,” he says.

Inherent fluidity

Pillai, who was responding to Subramaniam’s question on whether the inherent fluidity of Hinduism was lost when the religion began to define itself, uses this anecdote to drive a pertinent point.“Some of these stories may be apocryphal, but these are recent stories, which means that the tendency to change... to retain that fluidity still remains,” says the historian and writer, whose latest book *Gods, Guns & Missionaries: The Making of the Modern Hindu Identity*, examines the mutual impact of Hindu culture and Christianity upon each other and how these encounters contributed to the birth of an aggressive, more immutable form of Hinduism. “In Hinduism, no matter how much you try to regiment it, there are still elements of fluidity and change within it.”

In his session, Pillai discusses the evolution of Hinduism, its encounter with Christianity, and the impact of colonisation and reform on it. He also shares his apprehensions about taking on a subject that could be construed as controversial, admitting that he was constantly worried about being cancelled by both the left and the right as he wrote the book. “Would you rather be cancelled by the left or the right,” asks Subramaniam, rather cheekily, to which Pillai cautiously responds. “I think I would not be beaten up if I was cancelled by the left. The chances of getting beaten up are probably higher with the right.”



The creation of legends as Hinduism evolved, says Pillai, was a creative way of knitting together different ideas without denying them. AFP

Keeping the faith

Hinduism, according to Pillai, is a composite framework, something very clear in the Puranas, which “is a way of connecting the local with the pan-Indian and universalising that with the local.” He points out that when the Vedic religion came in contact with a whole set of other cultures “a bit of co-option” happened, a marriage of sorts where “each retains much of its original flavour but is also slightly modified to become part of a larger framework...what I would define as Hinduism.” There was a conscious effort, at least on the part of Brahmins, to connect everything into that framework, he says, adding that this was often done through stories.

This creation of legends as Hinduism evolved, says Pillai, was a creative way of knitting together different ideas without denying them, referring to the religion as a sort of tapestry that’s been constantly woven and expanding in different directions. “It doesn’t have an outer border.” In his opinion, the impulse to stitch up an outer border happened because of external pressures. “In some ways, you do see evidence of this in the Islamic period,” he says. “Islam is a big part of the culture of how Hinduism eventually responds and develops a sense of self.”

But, he says, it is modernity and colonisation that truly kickstarted the process of creating Hinduism’s sense of self. “When you’re faced with pressure from the outside... that’s when you must figure out how you define yourself,” explains Pillai. “I think that rigidity does appear in Hinduism’s political manifestation because the political assertion of identity is built on people coming together and asserting a certain muscle.”

Missionaries and more

By most accounts, the arrival of the first missionaries to India did not seem to have threatened Indians, at first. “Why were they so unthreatened by the idea of these missionaries, and at what point did they feel threatened?” asks Subramaniam.

In his response, Pillai offers insights into early Europeans’ perception of Hindu society, which was shaped by their own cultural history as a country that had once been pagan, even though Christianity was now deeply entrenched in it. While Europeans had worshipped trees, sacrificed animals and had deities and idols throughout much of antiquity, by the time they began arriving in India, a deep fear of idols had seeped into their collective imagination. “There was a sense that gods worshipped in images were representatives of Satan. There was only one god, and the path to that god was through the Bible,” he says.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Another worldview

In India, however, the Europeans were in for a rude shock as they were confronted with fierce gods like Narasimha and Kali. They couldn’t help but see them as demonic forces since “they came out of a certain world view and applied their cultural lenses to make sense of what they were seeing,” believes Pillai. According to him, these early European missionaries had arrived convinced that they would bring the light of the Bible and everyone would wake up. “But that did not happen. The Hindus seem to be perfectly happy to continue with their so-called demonic gods.”

Manu Pillai SUDHAKARA JAIN

Therefore, Pillai claims, the missionary also had to reinvent himself in interesting ways. Soon, a certain Hinduisation of Christianity happened, with missionaries such as the Italian Jesuit Roberto de Nobili having to study the former to engage in philosophical discussions and debates with the Hindus of that time, who didn’t take them very seriously.

For starters, Indians, too, had their perceptions of white people, including a belief they were cannibals who liked to fry their children in butter and eat them. And yes, many Indians, including the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, appear disgusted that they did not use water to clean themselves after using the toilet. “That sentiment still prevails,” laughs Subramaniam. Additionally, “Europeans didn’t rule here yet except in pockets like Goa where there has been violence by now,” says Pillai. “So the Hindus are amused by these white people trying to destabilise their sense of god.”

The inherent pluralism of the Hindu faith with “so many forms...a conglomerate...a composite of so many traditions” meant that many people were willing to accept that Christianity was a way to God and recognised the value of the Bible, but refused to accept that it was “the only way to God,” says Pillai, referring to a rather amusing analogy used at that time. “Just as a trader brings different customers to his shop by having multiple products on his counter, God has also created multiple options for humankind.”

Effect of colonisation

Colonisation, however, seems to have significantly impacted how the faith evolved. “The conflict begins when the power equation changes,” says Pillai. As the British Raj becomes more dominant and begins directly ruling over different parts of the country, “pressure starts building up home in Europe,” with the prevailing feedback being this: “Your job is not to promote Brahmins, support temples and take Hindu deities on processions. Your job is to support the missionary enterprise.” As the power dynamics change, people start becoming more and more nervous about their encounters with European powers since “it’s no longer a debate between the equals. Now you feel that the white man is in government... sweeping up all these territories... controlling the temples...paying the salaries of the Brahmins,” says Pillai. “So suddenly, the white man, in his religion, is a very conscious, serious person.”

Pillai also talks about how Hindus often came up with stories to explain this advent of Christianity and rebelled against it in different ways: dressing up the effigy of Ravana in the clothes of British administrators, for instance, during Ramlila performances. “At this point, these debates become very negative... very polemic,” says Pillai. Reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy contributed to these debates. “Even as he promotes Advaita Vedanta and this esoteric idea of a metaphysical, formless kind of God and a pure Hindu monotheism, in some ways, he’s borrowing the Western structure,” says Pillai.

Just like how in the West, the prevailing narrative was that Catholicism corrupted Christianity, and the Protestant Reformation was about restoring pure Christianity, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, the founder of the Brahmo Samaj, believed that there was pure Hindusim, which got corrupted into the Puranic form. “So you’re essentially taking that Western framework and applying it to Hinduism to develop a kind of Renaissance,” believes Pillai. “The Western gaze sort of comes into play, and how we define Hinduism is also afflicted by this.”

This eventually becomes a more rigid Hindu identity and, is later taken up by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and then Vinayak Savarkar, says Pillai. Despite this and repeated attempts at homogenisation of the faith, Pillai believes that Hindu culture is inherently pluralistic, with an innate capacity to accept, incorporate and move on. “This is also a form of evolution. We may not like it, but maybe this is how it’s evolving at this juncture,” he says.

A powerful portrait of dissent on the stage

A panel at the BLF discussed dissent, not as a monolithic concept but as a dynamic, nuanced, and deeply personal form of resistance

Aamirah Thayibah
BENGALURU

We are living in times where fiction is far less strange than reality,” said writer K.R. Meera at the recently concluded Bangalore Literature.

Meera – who shared the stage with writers Githa Hariharan, Irenosen Okojie, and Neha Dixit at a session titled *Dissent is a Language*, moderated by Anuradha SenGupta – went on to make a compelling observation: women are increasingly at the forefront of dissent, she said, citing recent movements like the Women in Cinema Collective in Malayalam cinema as a testament to female solidarity.

Irenosen Okojie

K.R. Meera

Hariharan, the author of novels like *The Thousand Faces of Night* and *I Have Become the Tide*, offered profound insights into the psychology of resistance. “It is a scary space,” she emphasised, “and one must first acknowledge the fear.” Paradoxically, in her opinion, this very fear becomes a catalyst for community building.

Hariharan also championed the power of humour, asserting that “once you can laugh at a monster, everything becomes less scary.”

The panel also critically examined institutional structures, with Hariharan referencing the controversial removal of Dalit author Bama’s work from Delhi University’s syllabus. “Who are these institutions really protecting?” she stated, urging students to question the narratives imposed upon them.

Global perspective

Irenosen Okojie, a Nigerian novelist based in the United Kingdom, on the other hand, offered a global perspective to the discussion. Drawing from her experiences in predominantly white and male-dominated spaces, she discussed the unspoken expectation for people of colour to be perpetually grateful.

“But I wanted more than a seat at the table; I wanted to shake the table,” said Okojie, who, as a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, strives to ensure that more diverse voices are given exposure.

Moderator Anuradha Sen Gupta questioned the accessibility of dissent, challenging its potential confinement within specific class and linguistic boundaries and the feasibility of layman citizens joining movements such as that of Delhi’s Shaheen Bagh. At the discussion, journalist and author of *The Many Lives of Syeda X*, Neha Dixit, provided a ground-level perspective, arguing that dissent is not a privileged act but a fundamental human survival strategy. “For a migrant worker to make it alone in a new city, survival itself becomes dissent,” she remarked, underlining the profound courage inherent in most marginalised communities.

The panel painted a powerful portrait of dissent, not as a monolithic concept, but as a dynamic, nuanced, and deeply personal form of resistance that transcends individual experiences. “If art is a nation, then dissent is its language”, concluded Meera.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 19, 1974

New Maternity Hospital for Yeshwantapur

Bangalore, Dec. 18. Yeshwantapur, a thickly populated and predominantly labour locality here, was gifted with a well equipped maternity hospital at a formal function on December 17. The Governor, Mr. Mohanlal Sukhadia, opened the hospital which will be run by the Bangalore Municipal Corporation. The hospital has been named after its donor, Mr. J. Kishanlal Poolchand Lunia.

Mr. Sukhadia said the hospital would have a family planning wing. He appealed to voluntary social welfare agencies to help the Government in educating the poor and illiterate villagers on the importance of family planning.

He praised Mr. Kishanlal Poolchand Lunia for his donation and hoped his example would be emulated by other rich persons.

The Mayor, Mr. T.D. Naganna, who presided, said the civic body would call for tenders to construct a market complex in Yeshwantapur at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 lakhs. He regretted that some Opposition councillors were making false and baseless allegations against the civic body whose term was coming to end this month.

CITYBEATS

Binge on bakes

ONGOING
Magnolia Bakery has introduced a range of Christmas specials for gifting. The highlight is their plum cake and Christmas-themed piped cupcakes, which also come in eggless options. There are also mini plum cakes, spritz cookies and double fudge brownies, which can be customised for Christmas hampers.
At all Magnolia Bakery outlets and online.

Rangapravesha

DECEMBER 22
Hamsini Karanth will present her Bharathanatyam Rangapravesha. The event also marks the 50th Rangapravesha of Natyalahari Dance School, founded by her mother, Manatha Karanth. Hamsini has completed the senior grade exam on Bharatanatyam, conducted by KSEEB with distinction.
At MLR Convention Centre, Whitefield.

Blast from the past

DECEMBER 22
Bangalore Film Forum and Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) will screen the film, *Maa Bhoomi*. Directed by Goutam Ghose, this 1979 Telugu film is produced by B Narsing Rao and is based on the novel *Jab Khet Jage* by Krishan Chander.
At Museum of Art & Photography, at 4.30pm. Registration on Bangalore Film Forum's website.

Plum pickings

From eggless and alcohol-free options to frosted creations, the plum cakes from some of these legendary bakeries in town are a seasonal favourite

Prachi Rathi

Kulkuls and rose cookies are definitely some of the favourite treats of this season but the ultimate star is the plum cake. The fragrant spices, fruits soaked for the longest time, and nutty flavours, instantly lift the festive spirit. We explored some of Bengaluru's oldest and most iconic bakeries, where the timeless tradition of baking plum cakes has kept them popular to this day. If you are looking to share this festive treat with your loved ones, here is a guide to Bengaluru's top spots for the best plum cakes.

Thom's Bakery

Thom's Bakery has been a popular spot since it opened in 1970, staying in the same location ever since. Known for its freshly baked goods and attached supermarket, it has built a loyal customer base. "It initially started as a cafe and later transitioned into a bakery and supermarket," says Atul Thomas, the third-generation owner who now runs it with his father and uncle. Their plum cake is quite soft, the rum and wine well balanced with spices. They soak the nuts and spices for five months before baking and their plum cakes are covered with rich marzipan which definitely gives out Christmassy vibes.
Priced at ₹860 per kg. At Frazer Town
For more details call 9741008168

Fatima Bakery

This bakery was established in 1957, and ever since then they have been baking their iconic plum cakes. They soak the fruits with spices a month ahead of the Christmas season. "Our first ever outlet was in Johnson Market," says VF David, who is now running the family business with his son. The plum cakes here are well balanced. The spices are in the right proportion tempered with the perfect balance of sweetness. Plum cake varieties available at Fatima include eggless and alcohol-free, eggless with alcohol and regular cakes with egg and alcohol.
Priced at ₹925 per kg. At Ashok Nagar and Koramangala. For more details call 7259619957

Albert Bakery, Frazer Town

This legendary bakery, started in 1902, is one of the oldest in town. "We started as a small bakery in a godown and later opened a shop in 1921," says Mohammad Sabir Faizan, who is from the fourth generation running the family business. The plum cakes at Albert Bakery are alcohol-free. The cake is rich, moist, and loaded with nuts, giving it a nice texture. Other crowd-favourite treats from this bakery include their mutton samosas, soft and sweet kova naan, kulkuls and rose cookies.
Priced at ₹750 per kg. At Frazer Town.
For more details call 9886165349

Koshy's Bakery

This 84-year-old iconic bakery, which later transformed into a cafe, started in 1940. It has had the honour of serving Queen Elizabeth II, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, British royals and other distinguished personalities. "We have been following the same traditional recipe for plum cake, passed down from my grandfather's time," shares Prem Koshy, from the third generation of the family business. "We soak and cure all premium quality fruits and nuts for 35-40 days." Prem Koshy also recalls that during his tenure as defence minister, George Fernandes would send Koshy's plum cakes as gifts to the forces stationed in Siachen.
Priced at ₹870 per kg. At St. Mark's Road and Shanthala Nagar.
For more details call 8022211516

Excelsior Bakery, Kamraj Road

This 94-year-old bakery has been serving the city fresh, aromatic bakes for generations. They initially opened as a small space within the Cantonment, before moving to a bigger shop later. During Christmas, crowds visit them for their kulkus, rose cookies, plum cake, and more. The minute you unwrap their plum cake, the rich aroma of spices and rum fills the air. "Our recipe has been passed down four generations. We soak the fruits and nuts for six to seven weeks prior to baking," says Saipreeth Muralidharan, who is from the fourth generation of the family business. As the festive season nears, they also offer frosted plum cakes, along with eggless and alcohol-free varieties on a pre-order basis.
Priced at ₹800 per kg. At Shivaji Nagar.
For more details call 9740403940

All Saints Bakery

Founded in 1969, this bakery has a reputation for freshly baked cakes, breads, and other treats including the plum cake. "We have stayed true to the traditional plum cake recipe," says Joanne Vellara, operations and marketing manager. They offer two varieties: rich and matured. "The matured plum cake has stewed apples, rose petals, orange marmalade, ginger, apricots, nuts and spices, soaked in rum, wine, and beer for six months. After baking, it's brushed with brandy," she explains. "The rich plum cake features a medley of fruits and nuts soaked in rum for a month." They sell eggless and alcohol-free plum cakes as well.
Priced at ₹990 per kg. At Ashok Nagar. For more details call 7760466867

A snapshot of India's culinary past

Anagha Maareesha

"My students at JNU used to call me professor biryani," joked author Pushpesh Pant while speaking on his new book, *From the King's Table to Street Food*. At the recently concluded Bangalore Literature Festival, he was introduced by culinary consultant Prachi Grover as a "food historian and a food critic". He is, however, uncomfortable with these distinctions. "I'm just a man obsessed with food; I can't help talking about food," he shared with a laugh.

Pushpesh is an academic who has studied history, international relations, and law, who was awarded the Padma Shri in 2016. He retired as a professor from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and has over 50 books to his name. The latest one asks the question, "What is Delhi's cuisine?" And who are the various communities, through millennia , that have made it what it is. The book traces the city's culinary journey from the time it was Indraprastha in the Mahabharata, to the present day.

Write bite Pushpesh Pant and his new book. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Food and freedom of speech

Pushpesh first came to Delhi in the '60s after spending his childhood in different parts of the country. "My mother was a polyglot and a brilliant cook. What we ate at home was very interesting; we had sambar one day, and doi maach the next," he shared. When he moved to Delhi, he saw a connection between affordable food, democracy and freedom of expression. "I remember the Price Rise Resistance Movement (PRRM) Coffee House in Connaught Place, where you could get a dosa for 27 paise. The prime minister-to be, Chandra Shekhar, and intellectuals such as MF Husain used to come here. And people talked openly. This coffee house was destroyed post the Emergency. I noticed how free speech, public space and affordable food went together". Food is a political tool, he stressed.

Were the Pandavas gourmands?

A few years ago, Pushpesh tried to recreate a meal from the Mahabharata in an event called An Epic Banquet, for the India International Centre in Delhi. The research was fascinating. "During exile, the Pandavas went to Manipur. It is impossible to believe that they stayed there and did not eat the foraged foods of Manipur and Tripura, and brought it back with them to Indraprastha (the ancient name for Delhi)." Pushpesh recounted a description of the feast of Yudhishthir's coronation. "There was saffron from Kashmir, yak from Ladakh, and asparagus from the Pragjyotisha kingdom."

Myth of Mughlai food

Pushpesh said the interesting part about Mughal Delhi's rich culinary heritage is that everybody from the bottom to the top, ate tasty and aspirational food. It was not only the scraps from the emperor's table that made it down to the street. Street foods also found favour with the emperors. What we consider "Mughlai" and "Tandoori" food, Pushpesh said, is over simplified.

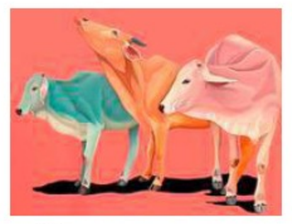
Describing it as the tyranny of the tandoor, Pushpesh said we do not know what the Mughals kings ate. Most of what we eat as Mughlai food today, such as butter chicken, are later inventions, or came from Persia or Turkey.

Post the Mughal rule, Pushpesh said the cuisine of Delhi borrowed from the cuisine of various parts of India. "I think 'authenticity' is a bad word when it comes to food," Pushpesh said about Delhi's cuisine. For example, the Parsis have played a big role in shaping the cuisine as so many businesses in Delhi such as the Plaza Cinema, were owned by Parsis as have the Bengalis."

"Michelin stars do not dictate India's future, *dhabas* do"

In the present-day culinary world, when the topic of Indian chefs winning Michelin stars came up, Pushpesh said, "They may be great cooks, but Michelin stars are not going to dictate Indian cuisine's future. The *dhabas* or street-side joints where truck drivers eat is where real Indian food lies. I have had great pleasure eating at roadside *dhabas*." Innovation happens there too, and food is cooked with simplicity and commitment, he says, adding "I want a simple dal and a well-cooked roti, and I'm happy."

From the King's Table to Street Food is priced at ₹699



Myriad tones Art by Boopathy Thangavelu (left) and Feroze Khan, sculpture by Gnana P (below) will be a part of IAF, Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India Art Festival back in Bengaluru for fourth edition

Ruth Dhanaraj

Bigger and better than before, this week will see the city host the fourth edition of the India Art Festival, with around 30 galleries showcasing the works of over 350 artists from across the country.

The upcoming India Art Festival (IAF) marks the 30th edition of the event in India since its inception 15 years ago, says Rajendra Patil, founder-director, IAF.

While people have come to expect a certain format at the event, this year marks the reintroduction of the IAF Creative Excellence Awards. "These awards used to be bestowed regularly from 2011, with a small break just before and during the pandemic years. We are reviving it with the Bengaluru edition," says Rajendra, adding that from this year, there will be recepients of the award.

"Two artists will now receive ₹50,000 each as well as a memento and certificate. This is to encourage mid-career and emerging young artists who will be at the show. The IAF is not just an exhibition, but a mark of encouragement for the art world."

According to Rajendra, last year, several artists in New Delhi suggested that a curated show of established artists in every city also be a part of IAF. "The reasoning was that by a certain age senior artists would be reluctant to sit in a stall for long periods of time, but with a dedicated space, visitors could still enjoy their work. So at this edition, the works of 30 master artists will be on display in a section titled Shaping Horizons: Karnataka's Iconic Innovators," he says.

Apart from a wide range of paintings, sculptures and installations, this edition of IAF will also have musical performances and a film screening.

Entry to IAF is free for art students on presentation of a valid ID card.

India Art Festival is at King's Court, Palace Ground, Gate No 5, from December 19-22. Festival schedule and day pass of ₹299, season pass of ₹499 available on BookMyShow and at the venue.

Can Centre exclude ₹120 cr. from airlift fee, asks Kerala HC

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre whether it can exclude around ₹120 crore of the ₹132 crore that it had sought as the expense for rescue operations that were carried out in Kerala by the Indian Air Force (IAF) since 2006. This amount (₹120 crore) could be utilised to rehabilitate victims of the Wayanad landslides.

The Bench further asked whether the norms that are binding on the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) can be relaxed so that the amount could be used for their rehabilitation.

The court termed the Centre sending the ₹132-crore airlift expense bill soon after the State sought financial assistance for rehabilitation in Wayanad a 'psychological move'.

'For a noble cause'

"It is for a noble cause, so the Central government should not have a problem," the court said and listed the matter on January 10 to await the Centre's response on the aspect.

A major chunk, over ₹100 crore, of the allegedly outstanding bills is for the rescue operations during the 2018 floods that devastated the State. It also contains bills of over ₹13 crore for the IAF operations in the wake of the landslides that wiped away three villages in Wayanad.

(With PTI inputs)

Row erupts in Kerala as ADGP under probe selected as DGP

M.R. Ajith Kumar is facing a volley of allegations, including corruption and 'disrupting' Thrissur Pooram celebrations; Opposition says move shows CPI(M)'s 'symbiotic relationship' with the RSS

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cabinet on Wednesday accepted the recommendation of a high-level screening committee that Additional Director-Generals of Police M.R. Ajith Kumar and S. Suresh be promoted to the rank of Director-General of Police. Mr. Suresh is currently on central deputation.

The acceptance of the recommendation appears to have set off a ripple in political circles.

Mr. Ajith, who was caught in a vortex of accusations of corruption, nepotism, illegal wealth amassment, criminality, and clandestine meetings with the top Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leadership, was removed from the post of ADGP, Law and Order, in October.

Ongoing row: Protests demanding Pinarayi Vijayan's resignation after P.V. Anvar levelled allegations against Ajith Kumar. FILE PHOTO

Subsequently, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan ordered a multi-tiered probe into the politically bipartisan accusations that Mr. Ajith had connived with the RSS to "disrupt" the iconic Thrissur Pooram to aid the BJP harness the "resultant Hindu majoritarian sentiment" to its advantage in the last Lok Sabha elections.

Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala said the government had initially shown a marked reluctance to suspend Mr. Ajith from service to facilitate a free and fair inquiry into the serious allegations against the officer.

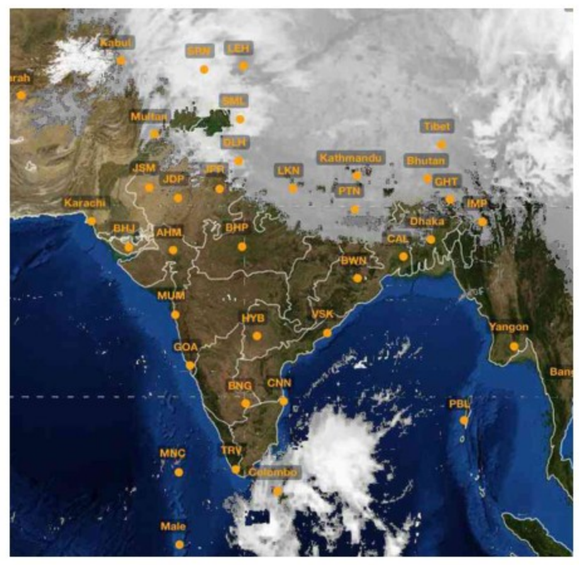
Congress leader K. Muraleedharan said the Cabinet decision testified to the CPI(M)'s symbiotic relationship with the RSS and BJP's top leadership.

Independent MLA P.V. Anvar attributed his acrimonious break with the Left Democratic Front to Mr. Ajith's alleged association with the RSS and the latter's "overwhelming and pernicious influence" over the Chief Minister's Office and law enforcement.

However, Law Minister P. Rajeeve said the decision was well within established rules and procedures.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema. Cold wave/severe cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and in isolated pockets of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Muzaffarabad, Haryana and Chandigarh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.4	15.3	Kozhikode	—	33.6	22.7
Ahmedabad	—	29.7	14.8	Kurnool	—	32.8	20.3
Aizawl	—	28.4	15.1	Lucknow	—	26.7	9.2
Allahabad	—	25.9	8.4	Madurai	—	35.0	22.5
Bengaluru	—	26.3	18.4	Mangaluru	—	31.7	20.9
Bhopal	—	27.0	6.2	Mumbai	—	34.4	15.4
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	18.6	Mysuru	—	30.4	15.6
Chandigarh	—	24.8	6.6	New Delhi	—	23.0	7.6
Chennai	38.4	25.3	23.3	Patna	—	25.0	13.5
Coimbatore	—	33.0	20.2	Port Blair	3	30.6	24.3
Dehradun	—	25.4	7.5	Puducherry	—	28.8	22.4
Gangtok	—	15.2	7.6	Pune	—	32.2	13.9
Goa	—	32.0	21.0	Raipur	—	28.8	12.4
Guwahati	—	26.2	11.2	Ranchi	—	25.6	9.2
Hubballi	—	31.0	17.0	Shillong	—	—	—
Hyderabad	—	30.6	14.7	Shimla	—	19.1	6.2
Imphal	—	25.1	9.9	Srinagar	—	6.5	-4.5
Jaipur	—	23.4	8.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.3	33.3	24.8
Kochi	—	31.6	19.9	Tiruchi	—	31.2	23.4
Kohima	—	15.2	5.2	Vijayawada	—	29.8	20.2
Kolkata	—	27.0	16.4	Visakhapatnam	12	26.5	20.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	.46	44	253	133	
Bengaluru	.7	.15	72	90	120	
Chennai	.8	.25	67	140	120	
Delhi	.23	262	92	476	409	
Hyderabad	.7	107	51	162	150	
Kolkata	.18	121	33	211	165	
Lucknow	.6	.36	62	329	288	
Mumbai	.20	128	30	218	191	
Pune	.—	202	73	309	198	
Visakhapatnam	.9	.61	45	107	85	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 445 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 25

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ISRO begins assembly of HLVM3 for Gaganyaan's flight

The ISRO begins assembly of HLVM3 in Sriharikota on Wednesday. ANI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation on Wednesday commenced the assembly of the Human Rated Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (HLVM3) for the Gaganyaan mission's maiden uncrewed flight.

The assembly of the HLVM3 is taking place at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota and the uncrewed flight is expected to take place early next year from the spaceport.

"At 0845 hrs on December 18, 2024, at SDSC, the stacking of the nozzle end segment with full flex seal nozzle of the S200 motor took place, thus commencing the official launch campaign of the HLVM3-G1 / OM-1 mission," it said.

It further added that the preparation of both S200 motors will now involve assembling segments, control systems, and avionics.

"L110 and C32 stages for the HLVM3 are ready at the launch complex. The crew escape systems elements are also received at SDSC. The integration of the Crew Module is happening at VSSC and the integration of the Service Module at URSC, Bengaluru. The Orbital Module (OM) level integration and tests will take place subsequently at URSC," it added.

Project background

The Gaganyaan project envisages a demonstration of human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400 km for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely to Earth by landing in sea waters.

Under the programme, ISRO intends to carry out three uncrewed missions and one crewed mission.

The assembly of the HLVM3 coincides with the 10th anniversary of the LVM3-X/CARE mission, which took place on December 18, 2014.

"It was on December 18, 2014, that the Indian Coast Guard recovered the Crew Module from the turbulent seas of the Bay of Bengal, approximately 1600 km from SDSC-SHAR. On the same day, LVM3-X, in its maiden flight, had lifted a Crew Module of mass of 3775 kg (LVM3-X/CARE mission) into a suborbital altitude of 126 km from where it was controlled using thrusters to orient it for a favourable re-entry," the agency said.

INBRIEF

Vijayendra completes one year as Karnataka BJP chief, calls on Modi

Karnataka BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his office in New Delhi, as he completes one year in office as State party chief. This meeting comes amid factionalism in the party, with a section led by Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, MLA, seeking a leadership change. After the meeting, Mr. Vijayendra said on X, "I met the Prime Minister to seek his blessings on completing one year of taking charge as State president. The invaluable moments spent with the Prime Minister today have given me inspiration for strengthening the party and contributing to the nation's progress."

Senior actor Thomas Burleigh Kurishingal passes away at 92

Veteran actor-director Thomas Burleigh Kurishingal passed away in Kochi at the age of 92 on Monday. Popular for the cowboy roles he had played in television serials and Hollywood movies, Thomas Burleigh died after being treated for age-related ailments at a private hospital. His funeral will be held at the Santa Cruz Basilica cemetery at Veli, Fort Kochi, on Thursday, according to family members. Some of his films include *Wanted Dead or Alive*, *Have Gun*, *Will Travel* and others.

IMD forecast heavy rainfall in parts of A.P. till Friday

The IMD on Wednesday forecast "heavy rainfall" in parts of Andhra Pradesh till Friday, due to a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal. In addition to "heavy rainfall", the IMD predicted thunderstorms accompanied by lightning in parts of NCAP, Yanam, SCAP, and Rayalaseema on Thursday, and "heavy rain at isolated places" over NCAP and Yanam on Friday. PTI

Jayadeva employees get safety app to combat sexual harassment or violence against doctors

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With features such as Shake to Safety and GPS tracker, the app will send alerts to all employees who have downloaded it on their phones

The State-run Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research on Wednesday released SUHRD, a safety mobile application developed for employees to combat any episodes of sexual harassment and violence against doctors.

With unique features such as 'Shake to Safety', 'SOS alerts,' 'GPS tracker' and an option to send a voice message and file anonymous complaints, the mobile application will send emergency alerts to all employees who have downloaded it on their phones.

Anyone who is closest to the victim can rush to provide help, said Jayashree Kharge, Professor of Cardiology at the hospital, who heads the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC).

"The name SUHRD means good heart in Sanskrit. Through this app, we are also looking at developing an attitude among employees to stand up for their colleagues who are in distress. Anyone who is closest to the person in distress can rush to the spot and extend help," the doctor said.

Shake to safety

Dr. Kharge along with the hospital's ICC member secretary Chandana N.C., Associate Professor, Cardiovascular Thoracic Surgery (CVTS), got the app developed by Naveen Hegde from Codegres OPC Pvt. Ltd.

"He has designed it based on our requirements. The 'Shake to Safety' feature is an easy mode of sending a SOS alert by just shaking the mobile thrice. During times of distress, the person is under panic and may not be able to open the app and send an alert," the doctor explained.

She said all employees are being encouraged to download the app.

"It is compatible with both IoS and Android phones. Even those without a smartphone can get it by scanning a QR code. Wi-Fi connectivity is being made available on all floors and even in the basement," the doctor added.

Over 2,000 employees

Jayadeva director K.S. Ravindranath said the app has now been released for employees in the main Jayadeva institute.

"The campus in the main institute is huge with the new Infosys block. We have over 2,000 employees here and this app will help in ensuring safety on the premises, although no incidents have been reported here so far," he said.

It will be gradually released in the Mysuru and Kalaburagi branches of Jayadeva too. Dr. Ravindranath said the Directorate of Medical Education is keen on extending the service to all medical colleges in the State.

Graceful act

A striking pose: An artist performs 'Nangiarkoothu' in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. The traditional solo performance by women is a mono act, where the lone artiste essays multiple roles with changes in stage position and body language. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Munnar shivers as it records the year's lowest temperature at 6 degrees Celsius

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

Winter has begun at Munnar in Idukki district of Kerala, with Chenduvarai Estate recording the lowest temperature in the hill station this year at 6 degrees Celsius on Wednesday morning. The temperature in Munnar on the same day last year was 13 degrees Celsius.

As per data from the United Planters Association of South India, the temperature in Munnar town was at 8 degrees Celsius on Wednesday.

According to climate experts, the normal winter season in the hill station starts in November, with the first week of January experiencing extreme cold. Normally, frost covers the valleys and hills in the first week of January. But from 2019 onwards, there was a change in the pattern of winter in Munnar.

Winter is here: According to locals, the weather in the Munnar is attracting tourists to the hill station. JOMON PAMPAVALLEY

M.G. Manoj, a scientist at the Advanced Centre for Atmospheric Radar Research, Cochin University of Science & Technology, said that the State experienced three low pressures in a row this month, which delayed the arrival of winter. "If not for the low pressure, the winter season would have begun in Munnar around mid-December. The temperature will further dip in the coming days," he said.

G. Sojan, coordinator of the My Munnar movement, said the weather was attracting tourists to area. "Almost all hotels and resorts have received bookings until the first week of January," he said.

"Every holiday, the hill station experiences hours-long traffic blocks, which negatively impact the tourism sector," Mr. Sojan said. He said that the authorities should try to prevent traffic blocks during the holiday season.

Electronic distraction

The Election Commission has a lot to answer for, but EVMs are not the issue

After consecutive electoral losses, in the Haryana and Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Congress has raised the tempo with regard to its concerns about electronic voting machines (EVM). While there are numerous issues related to the integrity of elections that the Election Commission of India (ECI) needs to come clean on, the risk of electronic tampering with EVMs is not among them. The Congress is barking up the wrong tree – that too selectively and only when it loses. Some of its party leaders have publicly expressed the view that there is no evidence that suggests the risk of manipulation, remotely or through preprogramming. At least two Opposition leaders, NC leader and J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee, have distanced themselves from the allegations. To assume that EVMs are so elaborately and precisely manipulated that the BJP wins in some States and loses in some others in a detailed conspiracy, defies logic. After all, the BJP ended up short of a majority in the 2024 general election. Moreover, all these results, particularly those of Haryana, Maharashtra and Jharkhand are well explained by the social and political dynamics at play.

By repeatedly raising the spectre of EVM manipulation, the real and serious questions of election integrity are being overlooked. Among them, the possibility of old style, manual capture of EVMs in booths dominated by one party and where polling agents of opponents are absent. This is pertinent against the backdrop of questions about a massive turnout recorded in many places in the closing hours of polling. This trend has not yet been satisfactorily explained by the ECI. Large-scale additions and deletions of voter names are now a pattern, and the ECI seems to be brazening it out. In Delhi, where elections are now due, allegations of the selective removal of Muslim voters have surfaced. In the Uttar Pradesh by-elections, partisan police actions that restrained voters expected to vote against the BJP have been controversial. The scheduling of elections is another serious question that the ECI has been less than transparent about. For a country that is preparing to conduct all elections in one go, it scheduled the three recent Assembly elections in two batches, and the BJP is the one party that gained the benefits. As is evident, some of these issues are local, some related to the vast capacity gap between the BJP and the Opposition while some others are squarely in the court of the ECI. The Opposition needs to focus on the real questions of election integrity, and an EVM scare should not act as a distraction.

Persistent instability

Social Democrats are at a disadvantage as Germany heads for election

German politics has been in turmoil ever since Chancellor Olaf Scholz lost his parliamentary majority last month, when the pro-market Free Democratic Party exited his three-way coalition. Mr. Scholz initially tried to cling on to power, heading a minority government, but amid criticism and concerns that delaying an inevitable snap election could further damage the chances of Mr. Scholz's Social Democrats, the Chancellor called for a vote of confidence on Monday. The outcome was known beforehand – his government collapsed the same day, pushing the country into early elections. The Scholz government, which was formed after the 2021 federal elections in which the Social Democrats won most seats, remained fractious from day one. While the Social Democrats and the Greens supported more public spending, the Free Democrats pushed for austerity. The government lacked coordination and what made the intra-coalition fighting worse was the financial crisis. Germany, once the engine of the European economy, has been in recession for two years. With no consensus within the coalition on how to tackle the financial crisis, the government's popularity plunged. In November, Mr. Scholz sacked his Finance Minister, Christian Lindner (Free Democrats), sealing the government's fate. President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will now call for elections, most likely in February 2025, seven months earlier than planned.

When Angela Merkel was in power, her conservative coalition managed to offer political stability, economic growth and a fine balancing between great powers. Even during the Russia-Ukraine tensions over the 2014 Crimean annexation, Ms. Merkel and the French leadership engaged with the Russians, which resulted in the two Minsk agreements. But two months after Mr. Scholz became Chancellor, Russia invaded Ukraine. Germany could do little to prevent the war, but it joined the West in imposing sanctions on Russia, which hit the European economies as well. The Nord Stream pipeline, built to bring Russian gas to Germany, was blown up, allegedly by the Ukrainians. The war worsened the West's energy crisis, in turn impacting the cost of living crisis. It then snowballed into a larger economic meltdown, triggering political instability. Germany is not the only country battling economic woes and political instability. In neighbouring France, a government collapsed in three months, and President Emmanuel Macron has appointed a new Prime Minister, who also lacks a majority in Parliament. Elsewhere in the continent, far-right parties with neo-Nazi views are resurgent. Mr. Scholz is likely to lead the Social Democrats in the elections but the conservative Christian Democrats are the frontrunners. A trial by fire awaits whoever wins.

Section 6A of the Citizenship Act — why it fails Assam

Ravi Singh Chhikara

an advocate at the Supreme Court of India and also the Delhi High Court

Arnav Roy

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The top court's recent ruling upholding the constitutional validity of Section 6A, fails to address key constitutional concerns, particularly those that impact Assam's indigenous population

The 4:1 majority ruling by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court of India, in October 2024, that upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 is significant. This provision establishes a distinct framework for migrants from the former East Pakistan (Bangladesh) who settled in Assam, allowing them to acquire Indian citizenship if they arrived before March 25, 1971. It is worth analysing the judgment for constitutional violations that were overlooked by the majority decision, and also discussing the potential negative implications of the ruling.

The judgment seems to suffer from arbitrary reasoning. The then Chief Justice of India, D.Y Chandrachud, while justifying the test of Article 14, i.e., taking out of Assam against other States, said, "Though other states such as West Bengal (2216.7 km), Meghalaya (443 km), Tripura (856 km) and Mizoram (318 km) share a larger border with Bangladesh as compared to Assam (263 km), the magnitude of influx to Assam and its impact on the cultural and political rights of the Assamese and Tribal populations is higher...The impact of forty lakh migrants in Assam may conceivably be greater than the impact of fifty seven lakh migrants in West Bengal because of Assam's lesser population and land area compared to West Bengal. Thus, the singling out of Assam is based on rational considerations." However, while testing the law against Article 29, the Court held that the influx of the people did not affect the language, script, or culture of the Assamese people nor did it affect their ability to protect the same. A simple examination of the contradictory reasoning indicates that the judgment was crafted to support the provision rather than to evaluate it against constitutional principles.

The background

Section 6A of the Citizenship Act was introduced in 1985 following the Assam Accord, an agreement reached between the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement. The movement arose in response to the migration from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) into Assam, sparking concerns about the preservation of the local culture, economic strain, and political imbalance. The Assam Accord sought to resolve these issues by setting specific cut-off dates for granting citizenship to migrants: before January 1, 1966 - all Indians who migrated to Assam were declared Indian citizens; between January 1, 1966, and March 25, 1971 - citizenship can be granted to the people after 10 years of residence in Assam; after March 25, 1971 - all these people were declared illegal migrants and were liable to detection and deportation.

Gaps in the reasoning

There are constitutional pitfalls in Section 6A of the Citizenship Act. There is a violation of Article 29 of the Constitution – cultural and linguistic displacement. Article 29 of the Constitution guarantees the protection of distinct cultural and linguistic identities within India. In its ruling, the Court held that Section 6A was not violative of Article 29(1), stating that the mere presence of different ethnic groups in a State does not automatically infringe upon the cultural rights guaranteed by the Constitution. It said Article 29(1) confers the right to "conserve" culture, which it interpreted as allowing a section of citizens to take positive steps to protect their language, script, or culture, and that the law must not prevent such efforts. The Court emphasised that the petitioners failed to prove that the influx of migrants, facilitated by Section 6A, directly hindered the Assamese people's ability to take steps to conserve their culture.

However, this reasoning is completely flawed. While the Court laid emphasis on the abstract right to "conserve" culture, it overlooked the fact that the provision creates hindrances to the people in meaningfully preserving their cultural identity. It failed to observe that mere formal recognition of the right to conserve culture is insufficient if the State allows circumstances to unfold which erode the very culture it seeks to protect. Research by Dinesh Bhugra and Matthew A. Becker found out that during the acculturation process, both the immigrant and host cultures may change. Changes in attitudes, family values, generational status and social affiliations can occur in both the majority and minority cultures as the two interact. Further, the Court also took note of the research paper titled "The Change of Religion and Language Composition in the State of Assam in Northeast India: A Statistical Analysis Since 1951 to 2001", which indicates that between 1951 and 2001, the percentage of the Bengali-speaking population in Assam had increased by 29.7%, from 21.2% to 27.5%, while the proportion of Assamese-speaking people had declined by 12.26%, from 69.3% to 60.8%. Further, as per the submissions of the petitioners recorded by the Court, from 1951 to 2011, the percentage of the Bengali-speaking population in Assam had increased by 36.36% (from 21.2% to 28.91% of the total population of Assam), while the proportion of Assamese speaking people in the State had declined by 30.18%, i.e., from 69.3% to 48.38% of the total population of Assam. This demographic shift is not a mere coexistence of ethnic groups but represents a cultural and linguistic displacement that has severely undermined the distinct identity of the Assamese people.

One of the most striking constitutional flaws of Section 6A is its temporal unreasonableness, a concept under the doctrine of manifest arbitrariness. Laws that are constitutional at the time of enactment can become unreasonable over time due to changing circumstances, and Section 6A is a clear example of this.

The law lacks any temporal limitation on its operation, allowing individuals from this stream to apply for citizenship indefinitely. More than 40 years after the cut-off date, the law still remains in force, which has rendered it ineffective in addressing the original problem it was designed to solve.

Faulty mechanism, its impact

The mechanism for identifying and processing these migrants under Section 6A(3) is flawed because it places the burden of initiating proceedings on the state, without providing a means for voluntary self-identification by migrants. This means that suspected illegal immigrants must be referred to a foreigners' tribunal, which then determines their status. However, the absence of any deadline for making such referrals allows the law to remain operational indefinitely, perpetuating a system that no longer serves its intended purpose.

Further, the foreigners' tribunal, which is responsible for determining the citizenship status of individuals referred under Section 6A, has become bogged down by the sheer volume of cases. Even individuals who do not qualify under Section 6A can claim to fall within its purview, slowing down the entire process and leading to widespread confusion.

It seems the Court wrote the judgment to merely justify the enactment of Section 6A. The ruling fails to address key constitutional concerns, particularly those regarding the cultural and demographic impact on Assam's indigenous population. The judgment overlooked how unchecked migration has eroded the linguistic and cultural identity of the Assamese people, in violation of Article 29's protective intent. Moreover, the Court's neglect of the provision's temporal unreasonableness perpetuates arbitrary and outdated policies.

Strengthening the roots of an agri-carbon market

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In India, existing carbon credit projects listed under non-governmental entities need to be examined to ensure inclusivity and efficiency

Carbon markets hold the potential to transform Indian agriculture, turning sustainable farming practices into a lucrative opportunity for farmers while combating climate change. In this, carbon pricing is a critical tool for mitigating climate change. It functions through compliance and voluntary carbon markets. Compliance markets, regulated by governments or international bodies such as the United Nations, impose emissions caps on companies. Businesses exceeding these caps must either purchase carbon credits from projects that mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, such as agroforestry or sustainable agriculture projects, or pay carbon taxes for their extra emissions. In contrast, the voluntary carbon market operates without regulation, allowing organisations to trade carbon credits through mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism, Verra, and Gold Standard, among others. Together, these systems aim to reduce GHG emissions and support global climate goals.

Carbon markets, their working

Carbon markets are gaining momentum. At COP29, in November 2024, for instance, a centralised carbon market under the UN got a green signal. Last year, India announced that it would launch its own compliance and voluntary carbon markets. Recently, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State universities, listed five agriculture carbon credit projects in Verra.

Carbon markets rely on two key principles: additionality and permanence. Additionality ensures emission reductions happen only due to carbon credits, requiring farmers to adopt new practices. This means that those who already use sustainable methods are not eligible for credits. Permanence refers to the long-term durability of these benefits. Permanence guarantees these benefits last, such as ensuring carbon stored in soils through reduced tillage is not lost due to a return to conventional ploughing. Therefore, projects that aim to generate and trade carbon credits must adhere to certain conditions, including additionality and permanence.

To assess the readiness of India's agriculture sector for a full-scale carbon market, we must examine the existing carbon credit projects listed under non-governmental entities such as Verra. This highlights challenges and the necessary fixes before scaling up. If projects fail to deliver promised environmental benefits, producing unreliable credits, buyers may lose confidence and stop purchasing agriculture carbon credits. This deprives farmers of extra income and discourages the adoption of sustainable practices. Ensuring high-quality credits from the start of Indian carbon markets is crucial for trust and long-term farmer participation.

In just four years, over 50 agriculture carbon farming projects have been listed in the Verra registry, targeting 1.6 million hectares of farmland in India. These projects aim to generate approximately 4.7 million carbon credits annually, equivalent to offsetting the GHG emitted from 11 billion miles driven by an average gasoline-powered vehicle. However, none of these projects is registered, which means carbon credits have not been issued and that farmers have not received the money.

Carbon farming projects in India

A recent study by the writers of this article published in Climate Policy – "Carbon farming in India: are the existing projects inclusive, additional, and permanent?" – examines seven such carbon farming projects in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, focusing on socio-economic inclusiveness, additionality, and permanence. The findings show that marginalised communities and small farmers were largely excluded, with women making up only 4% of participants. Carbon farmers in these States cultivated significantly more land – 51% more in Haryana and 32% more in Madhya Pradesh – than non-carbon farmers. Among non-carbon farmers, 46% of the land was owned by non-marginalised castes (general castes) and 17% by Scheduled Caste-Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) farmers, whereas among carbon farmers, 63% of the land was under non-marginalised castes and only 13% was owned by SC/ST farmers.

Further, while some sustainable practices were already in place before the projects began, others such as zero tillage, alternate wetting and drying, intercropping, reduced chemical fertilizer use, micro-irrigation, and tree planting were newly adopted, which satisfies the additionality condition. This demonstrates that, when implemented effectively, these projects can genuinely reduce GHG emissions.

Significant challenges remain in these projects: 45% of farmers reported no communication, over 60% lacked training in new techniques, and 28% stopped sustainable practices by the second year, mainly due to insufficient financial incentives. Alarmingly, 99% had not received carbon credit payments, with additional issues including yield penalties and inadequate information on carbon farming.

Despite these setbacks, projects managed by startups focused solely on carbon credits, termed "Carbon Core" in this study, performed better than those run by subsidiaries or offshoots of larger corporations. However, these projects were less inclusive of smallholders and marginalised communities.

To address these issues, India's carbon market must incentivise socially inclusive projects by offering higher prices for carbon credits from projects that include smallholders and marginalised communities. Effective communication, regular training, and guaranteed, timely payments can enhance farmer participation. Collaborating with national and international research institutions to target suitable regions and interventions can prevent yield penalties and protect food security.

An improving science

The science of measuring soil carbon and GHG emissions is expected to improve over time. In recent years, digital technologies have advanced significantly. Tools such as remote sensing, satellite imagery, drones, and sensors for monitoring project activities will soon become more accessible. However, for carbon markets to succeed, the critical focus must be addressing the grand old implementation challenges.

Building a thriving agricultural carbon market in India requires collaboration among policymakers, researchers, and private entities to ensure inclusivity, transparency, timely rewards for farmers, and improved project implementation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'One election' Bills

It is surprising that the government has taken the trouble of preparing and introducing the Bills for implementing the concept of simultaneous national and State Assembly elections knowing fully well that the Bills may not muster the necessary two-thirds votes in Parliament for their passage (Page 1, "Two Bills on simultaneous elections rock Parliament", December 18). The government has a valid point when it puts forth the reasoning that simultaneous elections would save expenditure and the country would be rid of the situation of 'constantly being in election mode'. But, given the negative impact of such simultaneous elections on the polity, democracy, existing State legislatures by way of curtailment of their tenure, and the federal structure as enshrined in the Constitution, the implementation of the concept of simultaneous elections is not desirable. The cost of conducting separate elections cannot be considered prohibitively high, compared to the country's total revenue expenditure. In a democracy, the cost of conducting elections should never be a matter of debate, as the exercise of conducting elections is the basic necessity for the survival of democracy in a country.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

While 'cost reduction; appears to be a reasonable benefit, it cannot be the sole justification. In reality, the government has not adequately addressed other forms of wasteful spending. Nor has it tackled the issue of using money to unfairly influence elections. The primary focus of any change should be on what is best for voters, not politicians.

V. Nagarajan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

Making affordable generics more reliable

Aditya Sinha
Public policy professional
Views are personal

Generic drugs are crucial for addressing healthcare affordability in a population marked by significant income disparities. Bioequivalent to branded drugs, generics offer cost-effective alternatives. India leverages economies of scale and low production costs to supply affordable medication domestically and internationally.

With out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure at 39.4% of total health expenditure in 2021-22, generics reduce financial burdens and improve treatment adherence. By August 2024, generic medicines worth ₹5,600 crore sold through Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana over a decade saved consumers an estimated ₹30,000 crore.

Ensuring the quality of generic medicines in India is vital to make them affordable and effective as innovator drugs. Despite being bioequivalent to brand-name drugs, quality control lapses have occasionally compromised their efficacy and safety.

A study by doctors of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, published in *Mycoses*, investigated the efficacy of itraconazole in treating chronic pulmonary aspergillosis using the innovator drug and 22 generic formulations. The innovator itraconazole achieved therapeutic drug levels in 73% of patients within two weeks, compared to only 29% for generics, which often required 6-8 weeks, dose escalation, or switching to the innovator. Further, generic capsules had significant defects, including fewer and unevenly sized pellets, critical for optimal drug absorption and bioavailability.

But why do generic and innovator drugs differ in some cases despite being made from the same active ingredient? Generics can differ significantly in their excipients and manufacturing processes, leading to variability in therapeutic outcomes. First, differences in excipients – such as binders, fillers, disintegrants, and coatings – can alter a drug's dissolution rate, stability, and delivery mechanism.

Second, manufacturing processes, including the type of punching machines, compression force, and granulation methods, can influence the drug's physical and chemical properties. Variations in tablet hardness, particle size, and porosity can affect disintegration and absorption. In some cases, while an innovator drug is designed to release the API slowly to achieve a sustained therapeutic effect, generics may release the API more rapidly, potentially leading to fluctuations in drug levels.

Third, the limitations of bioequivalence thresholds contribute to the problem. Regulatory standards often allow pharmacokinetic parameters to fall within 80%-125% of the innovator drug's range. These thresholds may be insufficient for medications with a narrow therapeutic index. Even minor deviations in drug release or bioavailability can lead to subtherapeutic effects or adverse reactions. Stability issues can also further undermine the drug's shelf life and reliability.

The key issue lies in India's decentralised drug regulation system, which grants significant authority to State Drug Regulatory Authorities (SDRAs), leading to inconsistent enforcement and quality standards. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) can only recommend action, leaving States to act. Despite repeated calls for centralisation, crucial functions remain with States, enabling regulatory arbitrage as manufacturers exploit weaker oversight. India must centralise drug regulation, strengthen CDSCO with resources and personnel, and establish more central drug-testing labs to address this issue.

The key issue lies in India's decentralised drug regulation system, which grants significant authority to State Drug Regulatory Authorities, leading to inconsistent enforcement and quality standards

Another reason is the inadequate enforcement of stability testing to ensure drug efficacy under diverse climatic conditions. Stability testing, mandated by the CDSCO in 2018, requires manufacturers to demonstrate that drugs maintain their quality, strength, and identity under specified conditions. However, inconsistent implementation by State licensing authorities and the absence of clear, centralised guidelines undermine compliance. Moreover, the lack of retrospective applicability to generics approved before 2018 perpetuates the presence of substandard drugs in the market. India must enforce uniform stability testing protocols, ensure centralised regulatory oversight, and mandate periodic reassessment of all approved generics to build confidence in drug quality.

Thirdly, India's Pharmacopoeia permits higher drug impurity levels than U.S. and EU standards. The Pharmacopoeia Commission (PC) and CDSCO rejected stricter ICH guidelines as "too expensive". Thus, these standards should be made a bit more stringent. In that case, action needs to be taken at the level of PC, CDCSO, and Centre.

Centralising drug regulation will only be effective with a comprehensive overhaul of the CDSCO. It must be reorganised to deliver robust regulatory safeguards, protecting patients from the dangers of substandard and counterfeit medicines through stringent regulatory protocols and effective inspection and enforcement mechanisms.

We must champion generics – they are indispensable for ensuring equitable access to medicines. But, equity cannot come at the expense of quality. States must relinquish their fragmented control over drug regulation, which has long undermined public confidence in generics. It is time to act on the decades-old recommendations of the Bhatia (1954), Hathi (1975), and Mashelkar (2003) committees, all of which have called for centralised oversight.

State water policymaking matters

A.P.'s CM is calling for a comprehensive water policy to address State's challenges

STATE OF PLAY

Srinivas Chokkakula
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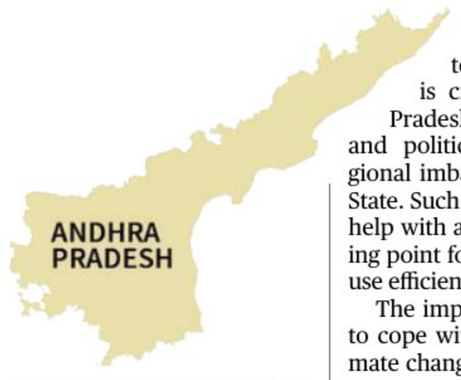
Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has recently called for a comprehensive water policy for Andhra Pradesh while reviewing the water resources development. The idea of such a policy must be welcomed. The fledgling state of Andhra Pradesh requires, at any rate, a territorial re-imagining of its water futures especially given the multiple challenges it confronts as a result of its bifurcation a decade ago.

Water policymaking at the State level is often underrated, yet it is both desirable and imperative for subnational and national water security. This is so at least for three fundamental reasons.

First, the fulcrum of water governance in India lies with and within the States. The much-needed paradigmatic choices and shifts – say, in supply augmentation to demand management – can be accomplished when these are leveraged at the State level.

Second, water resources development is deeply localised and territorialised for contextual reasons. For instance, Maharashtra, advanced in water resources development, may need to focus on regulation, whereas Jharkhand on supply augmentation strategies.

Third, the current Anthropocene world warrants re-visioning water resources management paradigms and practises. As the eminent Professor Asit K. Biswas puts it, the effects of climate change are most profoundly manifested in the ways of water, largely as risks get extreme and frequent. Coping with these risks



sets a new agenda for policymaking, both at national and subnational scales, more so for the latter.

Mr. Naidu's contemplated comprehensive water policy relies on conventional approaches of supply augmentation. While the Polavaram Project was a priority, he also stressed the longer-term river interlinking projects. The interlinking projects are, however, expensive, distant, and increasingly infeasible for political reasons. This reliance on supply augmentation is not surprising for a downstream State though. While these may remain part of the water policy portfolio, the State will do well to make beginnings in some key strategic directions.

Making the shift away from supply augmentation must be a top priority for the State. Many other States' water policies articulate aspirations for such a shift, but these often fizzle out due to the problem of institutional inertia. Deeply entrenched institutional cultures of water resources departments are premised on supply augmentation through engineering solutions. These are ill-equipped to adapt or promote demand management strategies.

Reimagining these cultures must accompany other elements of institutional reforms. This includes incorporating proven institutional models, such as an independent water resources regulatory authority. This is critical for Andhra Pradesh given the acute and politically sensitive regional imbalances within the State. Such reforms could also help with another good starting point for improving water use efficiency.

The important direction is to cope with risks. While climate change presents an overarching source of these risks, water security involves addressing other emerging risks such as groundwater depletion, river pollution and water quality, and dam safety. With over 32 dams aging past 50 years, and perhaps the highest average storage per structure in the country, dam safety is an important concern.

As a downstream State with a long coastline, Andhra Pradesh is exposed to compounded climate change risks. The Vijayawada floods in September is a case in point. The intense rainfall in the upstream stretches and poor conditions in the downstream to moderate the floods led to inundation in large parts. While the Chief Minister personally led the response efforts, institutionalisation of more efficient and effective mechanisms is necessary. The State must evolve robust monitoring and response systems to address climate risks, including cyclones. This brings to the fore the crucial element of intergovernmental multi-jurisdictional coordination to cope with such an extra-territorial nature of risks. The State must be conscious of these challenges of institutional reconfiguration towards a more comprehensive water policy.

Srinivas Chokkakula is president and chief executive, Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi.
Views are personal

Outstanding spinner, capable batter, match winner

The cerebral Ashwin's record is highlighted by his exceptional strike rate, best among spinners

DATA POINT

Srinivasan Ramani

Ravichandran Ashwin, a colossus in Indian cricket, hung up his kit bag and called it quits in international cricket after a stellar career on Wednesday, just as the third Test between Australia and India in Brisbane petered out to a draw. This article will focus only on his Test record.

Ashwin's retirement announcement meant that he finished as the seventh-highest wicket-taker in Tests (537 wickets) at a stellar average (runs per wicket) of 24 and a strike rate (SR, deliveries bowled per wicket) of 50.7. He also scored 3,503 runs at an average of 25.75. Only his former Indian coach Anil Kumble managed a higher wicket tally (619) and only 20 Indian batsmen scored more Test runs than him, indicating his strong all-round ability and performance in cricket's classical version.

Sri Lanka's M. Muralitharan (800), Australia's Shane Warne (708), and Kumble (619) finished with more wickets than Ashwin but the Tamil Nadu player and Chennai-born spinner played fewer matches compared to the other three. With 37 five-wicket-hauls-in-an-inning and eight 10-wicket-hauls-in-a-match, Ashwin was not far behind Warne's 37 5-fers and 10 10-fers, but this statistic was dominated by Muralitharan, who finished with 67 5-fers and 22 10-fers.

Where does Ashwin rank among the all-time best bowlers? As **Chart 1** shows, Ashwin's SR of 50.7 was the top of the pops among spinners (who picked up at least 250 wickets). No other spinner, except for Muralitharan, came close.

Table 1 shows the spinners with 250 or more wickets, ordered on overall SR. Ashwin's phenomenal record in the subcontinent (India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, he did not play in Pakistan), where he picked up a whopping 433 wickets at a SR of 45.8 and an average of 21.76 (second only to Muralitharan's 21.69), helped him register a great overall SR. This is despite a somewhat less sterling 70.8 SR in venues not friendly to spin in other countries, such as South Africa, England, Australia, New Zealand, and West Indies.

Ashwin was a match-winner for India and among the team's most consistent performers in an era when the Indian team dominated Test cricket, especially at home. He won 11 Man of the Series awards in the 44 series he played. Muralitharan also won 11 such awards, but he played in 61 series.

His phenomenal rate of wicket-taking ensured he was always among the fastest to reach various milestones in Test cricket, as **Table 2** shows. He still holds the record for being the fastest to the milestone of 300 wickets in Test cricket (54 matches), and only Muralitharan bests him in later milestones (400 plus onwards).

Ashwin's batting has been an underrated ability and one of the reasons he has won several Man of the Series awards has been his ability to score vital runs as a lower-order batsman. Along with spin twin Ravindra Jadeja, Ashwin not only formed a strong spin tandem but their batting prowess strengthened the batting lineup, pulling the team out of many a batting crisis.

Chart 2 plots all-rounder cricketers' (those who have scored at least 2,000 runs and captured at least 150 wickets in Test) batting and bowling averages (reversed). Ashwin falls under the category of "bowling all-rounders" who could score decent runs and were outstanding bowlers including stalwarts such as Richard Hadlee, Shaun Pollock, Wasim Akram, and Chaminda Vaas. Another attribute of Ashwin that sets him apart from other bowlers – his hegemony over left handed batsmen. Nearly 50% of all his wickets were that of left handed batters **(Table 3)**.

Tweaking to the top

The data for the charts were sourced from ESPNcricinfo

Chart 1: Strike rate of all bowlers who have picked up at least 250 Test wickets

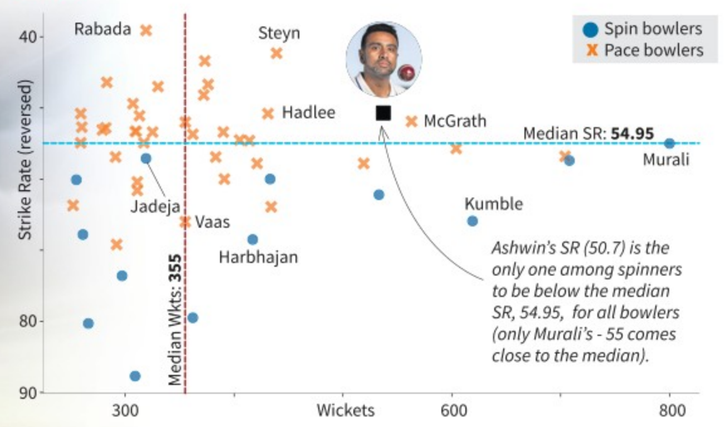


Chart 2: Batting vs bowling avg. for players with more than 2000 runs & 150 wickets

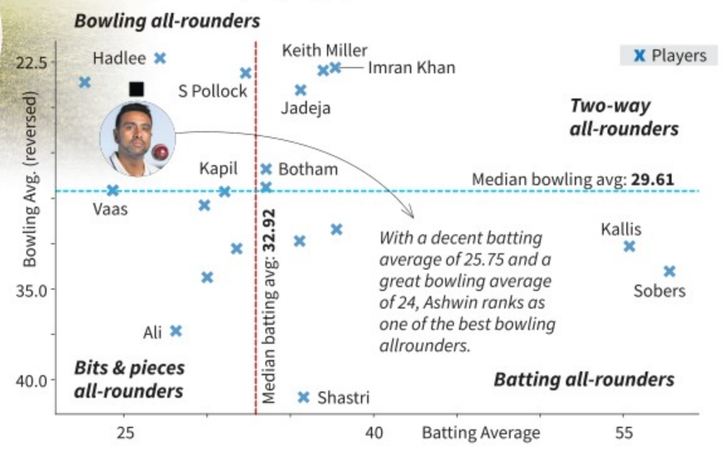


Table 2: The table shows bowlers who were fastest to wickets' milestones

Fastest to... wickets	Record holder (No. of Tests)	Ashwin's rank
50	CTB Turner (6)	Joint 4th (9)
100	GA Lohmann (10)	3rd (18)
200	Yasir Shah (33)	3rd (37)
300	Ashwin (54)	1st
400	Murali (72)	2nd (77)
500	Murali (87)	2nd (98)

Table 3: Table shows total wickets for bowlers & left hand batters as a % of those

Bowler Name	LHB wickets	Total Wickets	%
R Ashwin	268	537	49.7
NM Lyon	188	533	35.3
Harbhajan	139	417	33.3
SCJ Broad	193	604	32.0
JM Anderson	221	704	31.2
DW Steyn	136	439	31.0
SM Pollock	129	421	30.6
GD McGrath	172	563	30.6
A Kumble	167	619	27.0
SK Warne	172	708	24.3
Muralitharan	191	800	23.9

% LHB wickets as a % of total

Table 1: The table shows the spinners (who took 250 plus wickets) ranked on their overall strike rate

Bowler(Team)	Wickets	Avg	Strike Rate	SR in SubCont	SR in SENAWI*
Ashwin	537	24	50.7	45.8	70.9
Murali	800	22.72	55	53.2	58.3
Jadeja	319	24.05	57.1	51.1	79.2
Warne	708	25.41	57.4	56.5	58.6
Herath	433	28.07	60	54	93.4
Swann	255	29.96	60.1	55.2	62.3
Lyon	533	30.45	62.2	56.8	62.3
Kumble	619	29.65	65.9	61.3	76.4
Kaneria	261	34.79	67.8	64.2	71.1
Harbhajan	417	32.46	68.5	68.6	69.5
Underwood	297	25.83	73.6	78.9	71.8
Vettori	362	34.36	79.5	68.6	85.4
Bedi	266	28.71	80.3	78.4	82.4
Gibbs	309	29.09	87.7	78.6	89.6

SENAWI*: South Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia and West Indies

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 19, 1974

Exchange of visits: Indian Board's suggestion to Pak.

Bombay, Dec. 18: The Working Committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in India at a special meeting here today suggested to the Pakistan Cricket Control Board that they could exchange visits beginning from September to December next year.

The Pakistan Board had suggested to the Indian Board that an Indian team should visit Pakistan in the winter of 1975 to play five Test matches and nine other matches and immediately after that a Pakistan team would tour India from January to March 1976 to play an identical number of matches.

The Board considered the proposal from Pakistan at full length and since India had a heavy schedule in 1976, including a visit to New Zealand and West Indies, the Pakistan Board's suggestion could not be accepted. Instead, the Indian Board had proposed that India played three Test matches and three other matches in Pakistan, lasting in all five weeks. The Pakistan team will come to India after the conclusion of the matches there and play here three Test matches and four other matches.

The Board also considered the preparation of the Indian team for participating in the World Cup (Prudential Cup) tournament. In order to condition the players for this tournament, the Board has decided to suggest one day matches at five different centres.

The Indian selectors will watch the performance of the players and finalise the team for the World Cup to be staged in England, beginning from May 29 to June 25.

The Indian team will leave early in May to accustom itself to the weather conditions there and to play matches against Counties before the World Cup.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 19, 1924

American music in India

Bombay, Dec. 19: For the first time in the Radio history in this country American broadcasting was received in India in the early hours of Wednesday morning when the Marconi Company's engineers heard American music. While the former were able to pick up one of the new short wave transmissions, Mr. Hebbard listened to one of regular programmes on normal wave length of K.D.K.A station.

From Page One

Positive signals emerge from India-China talks

"This was the first meeting of the SRs since frictions had emerged in the Western Sector of the India-China border areas in 2020. The SRs positively affirmed the implementation of the latest disengagement agreement of October 2024, resulting in patrolling and grazing in relevant areas," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement issued after the meeting.

The resumption of the SRs process – started in 2003 to work on finding a satisfactory resolution to the decades-long India-China boundary dispute – marks a major step towards the resumption of diplomatic mechanisms that have been paused for the past few years. Mr. Doval last met with Mr. Wang in Delhi in December 2019, just four months before the Chinese army amassed troops and transgressed along the LAC, leading to skirmishes with the Indian Army. This eventually led to the deadly Galwan clashes, the first time there had been casualties between the two armies in more than four decades.

Mr. Doval, who arrived in Beijing on Tuesday, also called on Chinese Vice-President Han Zheng. According to a readout quoted by official agencies, Mr. Han said that as "ancient civilisations and emerging global powers", India and China's ties hold global influence and strategic significance. Both sides should "restore political trust and promote collaboration in economic, trade, and cultural areas, thus ensuring stable development in their bilateral relations," he said.

According to the readout, Mr. Doval had responded, saying that the resumption of SR talks after a five-year hiatus was significant, and that India is committed "to strengthening strategic communication with China" and injecting new momentum into the relationship.

Navy boat crashes into ferry off Mumbai; 13 die

Rescue work underway after a ferry capsized off Mumbai coast when a Navy craft crashed into it on Wednesday. PTI

The Navy and the Coast Guard launched a massive rescue operation. Eleven naval boats, three Marine Police boats, one Coast Guard boat, and four helicopters were deployed. The survivors were taken to various hospitals, including the JNPT Hospital, Ashwini Hospital, St. George Hospital, Navy Dockyard Hospital, and the Karanja Hospital.

Kin of deceased to get ₹7 lakh

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced a financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families of the deceased from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences to the families of the victims. He announced an *ex gratia* of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would get ₹50,000.

"Thirteen people have been declared dead by the Navy doctors – three Navy personnel and 10 civilians – as per Vice-Admiral Sanjay Jagjit Singh," Mr. Fadnavis told reporters in Nagpur.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of precious lives. Injured personnel, including naval personnel & civilians from both vessels, are receiving urgent medical care," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh posted on X.

The Colaba police have filed an FIR against the Navy speed boat driver and others responsible, on a complaint from survivor Natharam Chaudhary.

Foreigners' entry restricted in Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland

Centre reimposes Protected Area Regime amid 'security concerns arising out of influx from neighbouring countries'; foreigners will have to seek permission and permits to visit the 3 States

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has reimposed the Protected Area Regime (PAR) in Manipur, Nagaland, and Mizoram to monitor the movement of foreigners amid "growing security concerns arising out of influx from neighbouring countries", the Manipur government said on Wednesday.

From now on, foreigners visiting Manipur, Nagaland, and Mizoram must seek prior permission and special permits from the Centre. ANI

From now on, foreigners visiting the three north-eastern States would have to seek prior permission and special permits from the government. The relaxation has been withdrawn after a gap of 14 years.

According to Ministry guidelines, a foreigner is not encouraged to visit protected areas unless there are "extraordinary reasons to justify a visit".

On Tuesday, the Ministry wrote to the Chief Secretaries of Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland regarding the changed norms for the PAR under the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958. The letter said the relaxation provided to Manipur, Mizoram, and Nagaland under the PAR had been "withdrawn with immediate effect" and henceforth, the entire areas of these States would again fall under the PAR. The relaxation was given earlier to promote tourism.

The PAR was initially relaxed for a year in 2010 in the three States bordering Myanmar and subsequently the duration of the order was extended for five years. The latest PAR order was issued on December 16, 2022 and was valid till December 2027, an official said.

The Manipur government said in a press statement that the PAR had been reimposed in the three States. "With this reimposition, the movement of foreigners visiting Manipur will be closely monitored, and they are required to obtain the necessary Protected Area Permits (PAP) in accordance with the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958," it said.

The statement said that no such organisation called "Kuki-Zo Council" existed in Manipur, claiming that the "origin and authenticity of this group are highly questionable".

"There is no district by the name Lamka, mentioned as a headquarters in Manipur. This raises strong suspicions regarding the external origins of such organisations that appear to operate outside legal and administrative framework," it said.

The State government urged national and local media houses to refrain from giving publicity to such press releases from unauthorised organisations or individuals. It also appealed to the "Central government and its agencies to disregard such claims from unverified organisations".

The new group comprising members of the Kuki-Zo community had on Tuesday warned Chief Minister N. Biren Singh to not travel by road via the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi to inaugurate a festival in Senapati district, a Naga-dominated area.

SC says its doors are always open to protesting farmers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday assured protesting farmers that its "doors are always open" to them while urging the Punjab government to provide immediate medical aid to 73-year-old farmers' leader, Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who is on a fast-unto-death.

Jagjit Singh Dallewal

"We clarify that the court's doors are always open. Any suggestions or demands' charter by the farmers can be brought on record, directly by the farmers or indirectly through their authorised representatives. It would be given due consideration in discussions with stakeholders," Justice Surya Kant, heading a Bench including Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, declared in open court.

Justice Kant was informed by Punjab Advocate General Gurminder Singh that the farmers had refused to interact with the Supreme Court-appointed committee led by retired Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Justice Nawab Singh. Justice Kant said the farmers should come directly to the Supreme Court then. "We have opened our judicial platform to help their voices be heard... However, to what extent they will accept, only time will tell," Justice Kant said.

However, the court put its foot down when the Punjab government expressed its inability to convince Mr. Dallewal, a cancer patient, to accept treatment. "You have to provide him medical aid forthwith... Otherwise, the entire State machinery will be blamed," Justice Kant cautioned the State.

Mr. Dallewal has been on an indefinite fast at Khanauri border since November 26 in a bid to convince the Centre to accept the agitating farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee of MSP for crops.

Mallya takes swipe at FM over ₹14,000 cr. debt recovery claim

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sitharaman told LS on Tuesday ₹14,131.6 cr. was recovered by PSBs from the sale of Mallya's assets

Taking a swipe at Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for her statement in Parliament that banks recovered Vijay Mallya's assets worth ₹14,131.6 crore and returned to public sector banks, the fugitive businessman said this amount was more than twice the debt adjudicated by courts and wanted to know how he was still an economic offender.

"The FM announced in Parliament that through the ED, Banks have recovered ₹14,131.6 crore from me against the judgement debt of ₹6,203 crore and I am still an economic offender. Unless the ED and Banks can legally justify how they have taken more than two times the debt, I am entitled to relief which I will pursue," Mr. Mallya said in a post on X.

Ms. Sitharaman informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday that ₹14,131.6 crore has been recovered by public sector banks (PSBs) from the sale of assets belonging to fugitive businessman Mallya. This is part of the government's ongoing efforts to address financial crimes and restore funds to affected entities.

Mr. Mallya fled India in 2016 amid allegations of financial irregularities related to the now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines. The Indian government has been seeking his extradition from the United Kingdom to face trial.

The Finance Minister also said that diamantaire Nirav Modi's properties worth ₹1,052.58 crore were restored to banks following ED action, and businessman Mehul Choksi's properties worth ₹2,565.90 crore attached for auction.

After India visit, Dissanayake discusses maritime research and development with China

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

He meets a visiting member of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference

A day after returning from India following a three-day visit, Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake discussed Chinese development partnership, investments and a possible resumption of maritime research with a visiting member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

Anura Kumara Dissanayake

In a meeting with Qin Boyong, vice-chairperson of the National Committee of the CPPCC, held on Wednesday, Mr. Dissanayake expressed "gratitude to the Chinese government for its support during debt restructuring as well as in the face of the economic crisis", his office said.

Mr. Dissanayake "emphasised the continued need for China's support in the future," the Presidential Media Division said in a statement that outlined discussions on unfinished Chinese projects and potential investments.

Ms. Qin stated that there are "plans to restart maritime research activities, which were temporarily halted for various reasons, along with initiating relevant projects", the President's office said. The statement assumes significance, with Sri Lanka's one-year moratorium on research vessels – imposed by Colombo after New Delhi raised concern over Chinese research vessels calling at Sri Lankan ports – expiring soon.

During his recent visit, President Dissanayake said he assured Prime Minister Narendra Modi that "Sri Lanka will not permit its territory to be used in any manner inimical to the security of India as well as towards regional stability".

Briefing the media soon after, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Mr. Dissanayake's statement could have a bearing on Sri Lanka's clearance for foreign vessels. Further, speaking at an event in New Delhi, Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath said the Sri Lankan government had appointed a committee to review the moratorium.

Following his first state visit abroad to India, Mr. Dissanayake is scheduled to travel to Beijing next month.

HC adjourns cases on Gyanvapi survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday adjourned hearing in multiple petitions, seeking a survey of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi.

The adjournment came considering the interim order by the Supreme Court which restrained courts from passing any effective interim or final orders, including orders for a survey of the religious places. The Bench of Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal directed the matters to be posted for February 24, 2025.

The adjournment was ordered for a petition filed by one Rakhi Singh that requests a survey by the Archaeological Survey of India of the '*Wazukhana*' area within the Gyanvapi mosque. The second petition requested for the survey of the mosque premises and claimed a '*Swayambhu Jyotirling*' lies beneath the main dome of the disputed property.

All 17,130 police stations in the country linked through centralised online platform CCTNS

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Nearly 15 years after it was launched, all 17,130 police stations in the country have been linked through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a centralised online platform to file first information reports (FIRs), chargesheets, and investigation reports. The online database can be accessed by law enforcement authorities across the country.

The CCTN was launched in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,000 crore. MARRI RAMU

The last of nearly 40 police stations in Manipur, Nagaland, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Lakshwadeep, and Odisha have been connected to the system in the past three months, completing 100% CCTNS deployment across 28 States and eight Union Territories in the country, a senior government official said. "Police stations are registering 100% FIRs through CCTNS," the official added.

Launched in 2009 with a budget of ₹2,000 crore, the CCTNS has become key to the implementation of the three new criminal laws rolled out on July 1.

The system has past and current crime records, including details of an accused, charge-sheeted persons, convicts, habitual offender, proclaimed offender, and others. The police can also search the database for missing persons, unidentified persons, unidentified bodies, and stolen vehicles involved in crime incidents.

The platform can generate analytical reports regarding criminal cases, property cases, and crime statistics at the police station level.

The National Crime Records Bureau has made 23 functional modifications in the existing CCTNS application for the three criminal laws – the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita that replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860; the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam that replaces the Indian Evidence Act, 1872; and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita that replaces the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898.

The changes include seeking permission of senior officers before making arrests in certain cases; providing information of arrest to relatives or friends, designated police officer and display of arrest information; serving of summons; provision to send daily diary reports to the magistrate on a fortnightly basis; forensic investigation in all cases punishable with imprisonment for more than seven years; mandatory videography of the crime scene and forensic evidence collection; biological samples to be collected on request of any police officer; police to inform progress of the investigation to the victim within 90 days; and new timelines under the new laws.

The scope of the CCTNS has been enhanced over the years to integrate the police data with other pillars of the criminal justice system namely courts, prisons, prosecution, forensics and finger prints, and accordingly a new system called the Integrated Criminal Justice System (ICJS) has been developed.

The Hindu and Naruvi Hospitals present webinar on treatment of UTIs

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu, in collaboration with Naruvi Hospitals, has launched a 15-part webinar series on the theme "Prevent illness, promote wellness".

The first webinar, scheduled from 11.30 a.m. on Sunday, will focus on "Recurrent urinary tract infection (UTI) in women – management and prevention".

The speakers include Nitin Kekre, consultant urologist and head of urology at Naruvi Hospital, who will speak on the definition, clinical presentation, and evaluation of UTI.

Consultant urologist Rohit Sethi will discuss recurrent UTI, how common it is and the causes.

Ganesh Gopalakrishnan, consultant urologist at Vedanayagam Hospitals, Coimbatore, will speak on UTI treatment and prevention, and Maneesh Sinha, senior consultant urologist at NU Hospitals, Bengaluru, will provide insights on "UTIs in special situations such as pregnancy and menopause".

The session will be moderated by Ramya Kannan, Health Editor, *The Hindu*.

To participate, register at newsth.live/HIHIUIE or scan the QR code. The free webinar is part of a public interest initiative, "Healthy India, Happy India", which was launched at Naruvi Hospital in Vellore on December 7 with the aim of fostering a culture of awareness, prevention and wellness.

Our reverence for Ambedkar is absolute, says PM

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday strongly defended Union Home Minister Amit Shah against the charges levelled by the Congress that Mr. Shah had insulted Constitution-framer B.R. Ambedkar in his speech in the Rajya Sabha. "The rotten ecosystem of the Congress and its malicious lies cannot hide its misdeeds," Mr. Modi said.

"They [the Opposition] are clearly stung and stunned by the facts he [Mr. Shah] presented, which is why they are now indulging in theatrics. Sadly, for them, people know the truth," Mr. Modi said in a series of posts on the social media platform X.

"When it comes to Dr. Ambedkar, our respect and reverence is absolute," Mr. Modi said.

He said the people of India had seen time and again how one party, led by one dynasty [in a reference to the Nehru-Gandhi family], had indulged in "every possible dirty trick" to obliterate Ambedkar's legacy and "humiliate the Scheduled Caste (SC)/ Schedule Tribe (ST) communities".

Mr. Modi said the list of the Congress's sins against Ambedkar included having him defeated in elections not once but twice, Jawaharlal Nehru campaigning against him and making his loss a prestige issue, denying him a Bharat Ratna, and not allowing his portrait a pride of place in the Central Hall of Parliament.

Slams Congress

"The Congress can try as much as they want but they can't deny that the worst massacres against SC/ST communities have happened under its regimes. For years, they sat in power but did nothing substantive to empower the SC and ST communities," Mr. Modi said.

He added that it was due to Ambedkar that "we are what we are", even as he listed a series of measures taken by his government to implement Ambedkar's vision and accord respect to the iconic personality.

Ambedkar's vision

He said his government had worked tirelessly to fulfil Ambedkar's vision over the past decade.

"Take any sector – be it removing 25 crore people from poverty, strengthening the SC/ST Act, our government's flagship programmes such as Swachh Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, Jal Jeevan Mission, Ujjwala Yojana and more, each of them has touched the lives of the poor and marginalised. Our government has worked to develop Panchteerth, the five iconic places associated with Dr. Ambedkar," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi said there had been a pending issue involving land for the "Chaitya Bhoomi", where Ambedkar was cremated. "Not only did our government resolve the issue, I have gone to pray there as well," he said.

"We have also developed 26 Alipur Road in Delhi, where Dr. Ambedkar spent his last years. The house where he lived in London has also been acquired by the government," Mr. Modi said.

Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha witnessed protests by the Congress and other Opposition parties over Mr. Shah's alleged insult of Ambedkar, resulting in both the Houses being adjourned.

Parliament stalled over Shah's Ambedkar remarks

Both Houses failed to function as the Opposition collectively demanded an apology from the Home Minister for his remarks in Rajya Sabha; Congress leads INDIA bloc's protest on the issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Both Houses of Parliament failed to function on Wednesday amid protests by the Opposition over remarks made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on B.R. Ambedkar in the Rajya Sabha a day earlier. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the Opposition was misleading the country by selectively quoting Mr. Shah's comments.

Targeting the Congress, Mr. Shah, in his 90-minute reply to the debate on "Glorious journey of 75 years of the Constitution of India", said it had become a "fashion" for the party to chant Dr. Ambedkar's name. "It has become a fashion to say 'Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar'. If they had taken God's name so many times, they would have got a place in heaven," Mr. Shah had said on Tuesday.

The Congress led a protest of the INDIA bloc parties in the morning. Standing between the new Parliament building and the old one, MPs holding afloat posters of Dr. Ambedkar raised slogans of "Jai Bhim" and demanded an apology from Mr. Shah for insulting the architect of the Constitution. The Trinamool Congress was conspicuous by its absence at the Opposition protest. They [BJP] always said they would change the Constitution. They are against the Constitution, against Ambedkar *ji*, his ideology. Their entire work is to finish Ambedkar *ji*'s contribution," Mr. Gandhi told presspersons after the protests outside Parliament.

The mood at the protest was carried over to both the Houses.

Loud protests: Opposition MPs protest holding posters of Ambedkar, in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

In the Rajya Sabha, immediately after the customary laying down of papers, the Opposition was on its seats raising slogans.

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said he had the honour and privilege to be a Member of Parliament and the Council of Ministers when Dr. Ambedkar was honoured with Bharat Ratna. His entreaties to bring order in the House went unheeded as the Opposition continued raising "Jai Bhim" slogans forcing adjournment till 2 p.m.

When the House reassembled at 2 p.m., Mr. Rijiju rose to defend Mr. Shah, and accused the Congress of misleading the country by using only a part of Mr. Shah's remarks. At this, Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge repeated Mr. Shah's remark, and said it only showed the Minister's disrespect towards the architect of the Constitution. The Trinamool staged a walkout. The party's Rajya Sabha leader, Derek O'Brien, submitted a privilege notice against Mr. Shah.

Leader of the House J.P. Nadda rejected Mr. Kharge's plea, and alleged it was the Congress that had disrespected Dr. Ambedkar during his lifetime, due to which he had resigned from the Union Cabinet. This led to an uproar as Mr. Kharge again rose to counter Mr. Nadda and Mr. Dhankhar to adjourn the House for the day.

The Lok Sabha was adjourned till 2 p.m. within minutes of its convening amid loud protests from Opposition MPs. Speaker Om Birla's efforts to run the Question Hour did not yield results.

When the House reconvened, similar scenes were witnessed, forcing BJP MP P.C. Mohan to adjourn the House for the day.

Congress 'twisting' my comments, will seek legal options, says Minister

The Hindu Burau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday accused the Congress of twisting his comments in the Rajya Sabha with regard to Constitution-framer B.R. Ambedkar, attributing it to "the way that the BJP had exposed how the Congress was anti-Ambedkar, anti-Constitution and anti-reservation."

At a press conference at the BJP's headquarters here, Mr. Shah, flanked by his Cabinet colleagues J.P. Nadda, Kiren Rijiju, Aswini Vaishnaw and Piyush Goyal, said the BJP would look into the possibility of exploring legal options against the Congress for twisting his statement.

Mr. Shah said that in his speech he had revealed how the Congress was "anti-Ambedkar, anti-Constitution and anti-reservation" and the Opposition party had, by splicing an 11-second footage from this speech, tried to misrepresent what he had said. "The Congress has done this even in the past, and even Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statements have been distorted to mislead the people," he said.

He said the Congress had insulted V.D. Savarkar and blew to smithereens Constitutional values by imposing Emergency. Asked about Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's demand for his resignation, Mr. Shah said he had expected better from Mr. Kharge who belonged to a category for whom Ambedkar had devoted his life, but the Congress leader was acting under pressure of Rahul Gandhi to join the "malicious" campaign.

Shah should either step down or PM should sack him, says Congress chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday that if Prime Minister Narendra Modi holds any respect for B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, he should remove Amit Shah from his Cabinet if the Home Minister did not resign on his own.

The Congress stepped up its attack against Mr. Shah's comment on Ambedkar with the party's State units taking out protest marches and gheraoing the Raj Bhavans across the country to build pressure on the Modi government.

Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) chief and Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav and Left leaders also criticised the Home Minister.

Replying to the debate on the Constitution in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, Mr. Shah had said that it had become a "fashion to keep repeating Ambedkar's name but if the Opposition had taken God's name as many times, they would have got a place in heaven".

Mr. Kharge said he should apologise to the nation for the "insult", and said that the Home Minister's comment reflects the mindset of *Manusmriti*.

"We want Amit Shah to quit his post and, if he doesn't, I want to tell the Prime Minister that if he has even a little respect for Babasaheb, he should dismiss Amit Shah from his post before midnight," Mr. Kharge said. "If there is no resignation, there will be protests all over the country. Babasaheb Ambedkar *ji* belongs to everyone because he used to talk about every person of society, including the Dalits, the oppressed and the deprived. He had sympathy for everyone," he added.

Ms. Banerjee alleged that Mr. Shah's remarks displayed the BJP's "casteist and anti-Dalit mindset". "If this is how they behave after being reduced to 240 seats, imagine the damage they would've inflicted if their dream of 400 seats had been realised. They'd have rewritten history to entirely erase Dr. Ambedkar's contributions," she posted on X.

In an X post, Mr. Stalin said only those "who commit a lot of sins will have to worry about "punya" (good deeds). "Those who worry about the country, protecting the Constitution and the people will only utter the name of revolutionary Babasaheb Ambedkar," he said.

CPI general secretary D. Raja told *The Hindu*,"The Home Minister should know that as the prime architect of our Constitution, Ambedkar's name will always be taken with respect. Why has Mr. Shah linked Ambedkar to religion?"

"BJP leaders should hear this loud and clear, Babasaheb Ambedkar is our fashion, passion, inspiration and motivation as well," Tejashwi Yadav stated.

BJP's P.P. Chaudhary to lead panel on simultaneous polls

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

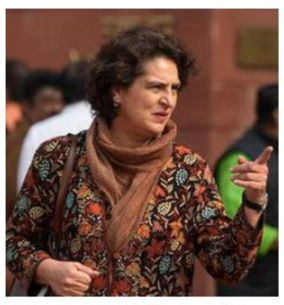
The Union government has announced a 31-member Joint Committee of Parliament to examine the two Bills that seek to put in a place a mechanism to hold simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies.

The committee will have 21 members from the Lok Sabha and the remaining 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

According to the terms of reference, it has to submit the report "on the first day of the last week of the next session" of Parliament which will be the Budget Session.

Prominent members

Prominent members from the Lok Sabha include the Bharatiya Janata Party's P. P. Chaudhary, Anurag Thakur, Bansuri Swaraj, Bhartruhari Mahtab and Sambit Patra, Congress leaders Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Manish Tewari and Sukhdeo Bhagat, the Trinamool Congress's Kalyan Banerjee, the Nationalist Congress Party's Supriya Sule, the Samajwadi Patry's Dharemndra Yadav and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) T.M. Selvaganapathi.


Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be part of the panel.

Mr. Chaudhary, who has been a Minister of State for Law and Justice, will head the joint committee that will examine the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill and the Union Territories Laws Amendment Bill, which seeks to align elections in the Union Territories of Puducherry, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir with the Lok Sabha election.

Allies find place

From BJP allies, Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde and Telugu Desam Party's G. M. Harish Balayogi have been nominated. Most political parties have given the name of their nominees from the Rajya Sabha as well. The Congress's Randeep Surjewala and the DMK's P. Wilson are likely to find a place on the committee.

Modi-led panel meets to select next NHRC chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A high-power committee led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi met on Wednesday to select the next Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Both Leaders of the Opposition (LoPs), Mallikarjun Kharge in the Rajya Sabha and Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha, attended the meeting in which they were supposed to have given the name of retired judge of the Supreme Court, Justice K.M. Joseph, for the post of NHRC chief.

There is, however, no official word on what transpired at the meeting.

The LoPs were also said to have recommended names of retired former Chief Justices of High Courts to fill up the posts of other members of the NHRC lying vacant. They include Justices S. Muralidhar, Akil Kureshi and former Supreme Court judge Justice V. Ramasubramanian.

Informed sources said the two LoPs were likely to submit a dissent note on the selection process as the shortlisted names were not shared with them in advance.

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail :- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

Notice Inviting Bid No. 02/2024-25

On behalf of the Governor or Rajasthan, online tender are hereby invited from eligible bidders for the following works of water supply projects as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/ Tender document available on website : http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in Tender are to be submitted online in electronic format on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in with 27.01.2025 last date of submission.

NIT No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost	SPPP UBN No.
02/24-25	Water Supply Scheme of 190 villages of Rajakhera & Dholpur Block of Distirct Dholpur from Lift Irrigation cum Drinking Water Project for providing FHTCs including 10-year O&M	Rs. 205.20 Crores	PHE2425 WLOB07095

(Surendra Sharma)
DIPR/C/13115/2024 Additional Chief Engineer (Project), PHED Bharatpur

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
PHONE NO. 0145-2624748 Email-aceregionajmer@gmail.com
No.F()/Ar.MP/2024-2025/11667-11720 Dated :16.12.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS

Bids for the work for Augmentation of Urban Water Supply Project Kekri and Sarwar including 5 years O&M after 1 DLP under AMRUT 2.0 (NIT No.07/2024-25; Estimated Cost Rs.1314.58 Lacs) are invited from interested bidders up to 13.01.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.

UBN No. PHE2425WLOB07191
NIB No. PHE2425A3389

(Ram Chandra Rar)
Additional Chief Engineer,
DIPR/C/13147/2024 PHED, Region, Ajmer

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
Notice Inviting Bid No. 03-09/2024-25

On behalf of the Governor or Rajasthan, online tender are hereby Invited from eligible bidders for the following works of water supply projects as per criteria mentioned In the detailed NIT/ Tender document available on website: http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in Tender are to be submitted online in electronic format on website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in with 10.03.2025 last date of submission.

NIT No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost	SPPP UBN No.
03/24-25	Work for Construction of Water Treatment Plants, CWRs & CWPHs Near WTPs Clear Water transmission main From WTP various IPSs, Laying of Rising mains to different ESRs, Construction of ESRs, Distribution system in villages, providing FHTCs Including all Allied works under Jal Jeevan Mission with 10 years O&M including one year defect liability period (Kaliteer Water Supply Project) covering villages of Dholpur, Bari, Baseri, Sarmathpura & Sepaiu Blocks of District Dholpur and Bayana block of Bharatpur District	Rs. 606.79 Cr.	PHE2425 WLOB0 7189
04/24-25	Work of Construction of Intake well in side chambal River including Approach Bridge, construction of RWR including all works required for inlet inside RWR, outlet system from RWR to outlet chamber, Construction of CWR & CWPH Near WTP Clear Water transmission main From WTP to IPS Kotra , Construction of CWR at IPS Baseri, and Alied works (Chambal Alwar Bharatpur Project Package 1), under Jal Jeevan Mission with 10 years O&M including one year defect liability period, amounting to Rs 1332.54 Crores (NIT No. 04/ 2024-25)	Rs. 1332.54 Cr.	PHE2425 WLOB0 7192
05/24-25	Construction of intermediate CWPH at Kotra (Baseri), laying of Clear Water transmission main From Kotra to Naroli, Nadbai via junction 2 at Naroli, IPS Nadbai, Nagar, Ramgarh, Kishangarhbas Tijara (Jairoli) and Bhiwadi; from Kishanbas to Mandawar and Upto Behror; from Naroli Jn to KNP Bharatpur and Naroli. Construction of CWR and Intermediate Pump Houses and Offtakes. Construction of terminal CWRs at Bhiwadi and Behror inculding all alied works (Chambal Alwar Bharatpur Project Package 2), under Jal Jeevan Mission with 10 years O&M. Including one year defect liability period, amounting to Rs 2391.03 Crores. (NIT No. 05/2024-25)	Rs. 2391.03 Cr.	PHE2425 WLOB 07193
06/24-25	Chambal Alwar Water Supply Project for providing surface water to the villages of District Alwar and Bharatpur through FHTCs Package 3, under Jal Jeevan Mission with 10 years O&M including one year defect liability period,amounting to Rs 1090.10 Crores. (NIT No. 06/2024-25)	Rs. 1090.10 Cr.	PHE2425 WLOB 07194
07/24-25	Work for strengthening of Intake well inside Chambal River, construction of approach Bridge, construction of RWR including all works required for inlet inside RWR, outlet system from RWR to outlet chamber, WTP, Construction of CWR and Allied works under Chambal Sawai Madhopur Water Supply Project of District karauli and Sawai Madhopur package-1 with 10 years O&M including one year defect liability period, amounting to Rs. 953.56 Crore. (NIT No. 07/2024-25)	Rs. 953.56 Cr.	PHE2425 WLOB 07196
08/24-25	Work for Construction of Intermediate CWPH at all IPSs & CPSs, laying of Clear Water transmission main From Mandrail WTP to Block CPS/IPS all pumping stations up to Sawai Madhopur. Construction of CWRs and Intermediate Pump Houses and Off takes. Construction of terminal CWRs at different location of CPSs including all allied works under Chambal Sawai Madhopur Water Supply Project of District karauli and Sawai Madhopur package-2 with 10 years O&M including one year defect liability period amounting to Rs. 1208.65 Crore. (NIT No. 08/2024-25)	Rs. 1208.65 Cr.	PHE2425 WLOB 07199
09/24-25	Work of Chambal Sawai Madhopur Nadoti Water Supply Project (CSNP) - Package- 3 for providing surface water to the 1424 villages of Karauli and Sawai Madhopur District through FHTCs under Jal Jeevan Mission with 10 years O&M including one year defect liability period, amounting to Rs 904.69 Crore (NIT No. 09/2024-25)	Rs. 904.69 Cr.	PHE2425 WLOB 07201

(Surendra Sharma), Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/13151/2024 (Project), PHED Bharatpur

INBRIEF

Cong. leader dies during 'Raj Bhavan Chalo' stir in Assam

An Assam Congress leader died on Wednesday after police fired tear gas shells at protesters during a "Raj Bhavan Chalo" programme in Guwahati. Mridul Islam (in photo), an advocate by profession, was the secretary of the Assam Congress's legal cell. He collapsed after the shelling and died at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital later. "Mridul Islam did not die. The Himanta Biswa Sarma government murdered him through a planned crackdown on peaceful protesters. We have declared him the first martyr of our war against the corrupt BJP-led government," State Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah told presspersons.

Bhutan's royal honour conferred on Arun Kapur

Indian educationist Arun Kapur, who set up schools in India, Bhutan and Oman, has been conferred the 'Bura Marp' (red scarf) and 'Patang' (ceremonial sword) by Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel at the 117th Bhutanese National Day celebrations in Thimphu's Changlimathang stadium on Tuesday. The honour is rarely given to non-Bhutanese residents and comes with the honorific 'Dasho' title, otherwise used for senior officials. In 2019, Mr. Kapur was awarded the 'Druk Thuksey' for his work in setting up the Royal Academy school, and in developing the Bhutan Baccalaureate educational system.

Shutdown in Jammu's Katra over ropeway to Vaishno Devi

A shutdown was observed in Reasi's Katra by local shopkeepers on Wednesday to oppose a ropeway that will connect Tarakote Marg to Sanji Chhat, along the 12-kilometre steep track of the Vaishno Devi shrine, in the Jammu region. "The board [running the shrine] is out to snatch the bread and butter of over 60,000 families. From hoteliers to shopkeepers, from pony operators to labourers and transporters, all have come out against the ropeway project," Bhupinder Singh Jamwal, president of the Vaishno Devi Trek Mazdoor Union, said. BJP leader Jugal Kishore Sharma criticised the government for "failing to resolve the issue by the December 15 deadline".

BJP worker in U.P. allegedly threatens Muslim shopkeepers

A BJP worker in Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad courted controversy when she was allegedly seen threatening Muslim shopkeepers against selling meat in the area, which is considered to be dominated by the Hindus. In a viral video, Sunita Sharma is seen holding a microphone on a road where she warns Muslim shopkeepers to refrain from selling meat or other non-vegetarian items on Tuesdays in Hindu-dominated areas, with supporters chanting slogans such as 'Jai Shri Ram'. She threatened to organise demonstrations against renting out shops to Muslims. Opposition parties, including the Congress, demanded action against the BJP activist's rhetoric.

Formulate policy to manage sacred groves, SC tells govt.

Union Environment Ministry asked to develop plan for nationwide survey of groves, which are traditionally safeguarded by local communities, for its ecological value and cultural significance

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Centre to create a comprehensive policy for the management of sacred groves across the country.

Sacred groves are patches of trees traditionally protected by local communities for their religious and cultural significance. They also contribute to the conservation of the local biodiversity. These small forests are commonly found in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The recommendation by a Special Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai, S.V.N. Bhatti and Sandeep Mehta was based on a petition highlighting the vanishing groves of Rajasthan.

Save biodiversity: These small forests are commonly found in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. THULASI KAKKAT

Significant move

The court's suggestion to the Centre to frame a policy is significant as the Centre has usually maintained that the management of wildlife and its habitat is primarily the responsibility of the States. The Centre had noted that the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, empowered States for declaration of any private or community land, as a community reserve, for protecting fauna, flora and traditional or cultural conservation values and practices.

However, the judgment aligned the preservation of sacred groves with the cultural and traditional rights of entire communities, while asking the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to spearhead the efforts to protect these precious sources of biodiversity.

The Ministry was asked to develop a plan for a nationwide survey of sacred groves. The court said the survey must identify the area and extent of the groves. It said the boundaries of the groves have to be clearly marked but left flexible to accommodate future growth of the forests. It said the Centre should provide instructions against the reduction of the groves.

Justice Mehta reminded the Centre that the National Forest Policy of 1988, backed by the top court's interventions through the T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad batch of cases, encouraged communities with customary rights to improve these forest patches on which they depend for their needs.

Village's efforts

The judgment narrated the story of Piplantri village in Rajasthan, where barren land was transformed to lush green groves due to the efforts of the people. "Piplantri village shows how a community-driven initiative came to effectively address social, ecological and environmental challenges in a cohesive manner," Justice Mehta underscored.

"Sacred groves have immense ecological value. Sacred groves should be identified and protected as community reserves to ensure their preservation against unauthorised land use changes," he observed.

India's official entry *Laapataa Ladies* out of Oscars race

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A scene from the movie Laapataa Ladies.

Laapataa Ladies, India's official entry in the best international feature category of the 97th Academy Awards, is out of the Oscars race.

The Hindi film, directed by Kiran Rao, is not part of the shortlist of 15 features that will vie for a spot in the final five, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced on Wednesday.

Santosh, directed by British-Indian filmmaker Sandhya Suri and starring Indian actors Shahana Goswami and Sunita Rajwar, has made it to the shortlist representing the U.K.

Emilia Pérez (France), *I'm Still Here* (Brazil), *Universal Language* (Canada), *Waves* (Czech Republic), *The Girl with the Needle* (Denmark), and *The Seed of the Sacred Fig* from Germany are on the shortlist.

The other contenders are *Touch* (Iceland), *Kneecap* (Ireland), *Vermiglio* (Italy), *Flow* (Latvia), *Armand* (Norway), *From Ground Zero* (Palestine), *Dahomey* (Senegal), and *How to Make Millions before Grandma Dies* (Thailand).

Titled *Lost Ladies* in English, Kiran Rao's film is a gently subversive feminist drama which is set in rural India in the early 2000s. Sneha Desai wrote the screenplay and dialogues of *Laapataa Ladies*, based on a story by Biplab Goswami. Divyanidhi Sharma penned additional dialogues.

Laapataa Ladies follows two brides who go to the wrong marital homes after their wedding. It stars Nitanshi Goel and Pratibha Ranta as the brides Phool and Jaya, respectively, with Sparsh Shrivastav playing a groom in search of his wife.

2 airlines oppose plan for reduced night flying time for pilots

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

In a letter to the DGCA, IndiGo and the Air India Group have opposed the regulator's proposal to reduce night flying for pilots. While IndiGo has rejected the suggestion altogether as it will have a "severe operational impact", Air India said that it could be implemented only after the regulator introduces an advanced data-based fatigue management system.

Airlines have also stalled another key suggestion of raising weekly rest for pilots from 36 hours to 48 hours. While IndiGo has said it could implement this in a staggered manner between June 2025 and after July 2026, the Air India Group has said it could implement this from June 2025.

These recommendations were part of the DGCA's revised norms governing rest and duty hours for pilots notified by the regulator in January 2024 which were to be implemented from June 1. But these were put on hold on March 26 following stiff opposition from airlines.

IndiGo, Air India have also rejected the proposal to raise weekly rest hours for pilots.

Subsequently, in April, the regulator asked airlines to inform the timeline for implementation they were comfortable with.

The airlines have submitted their replies nine months later.

IndiGo has shunned the DGCA's suggestion to raise the definition of night flying from flying between midnight and 5 a.m. by an hour to include flying till 6 a.m. in a letter from its COO, Isidro Porequras, to the DGCA on December 4.

The Hindu has reviewed a copy of this letter.

Bangladesh HC cancels death for ULFA chief

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A High Court in Bangladesh on Wednesday granted relief to the United Liberation Front of Asom's self-exiled chief, Paresh Baruah, commuting his death penalty to a life sentence.

The verdict was given by Justices Mustafa Zaman and Nasreen Akhtar of the High Court division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court, in what is known as the "ten trucks arms haul" case of 2004. The ULFA chief was sentenced to death in 2014, at a time when Bangladesh was cracking down on extremism and militancy across the country.

On April 1, 2004, 10 trucks filled with arms and ammunition were apprehended at the State-run jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd., even as the weapons were being offloaded from two trawlers. It was alleged that the weapons were meant for insurgent groups active in India's northeastern States.

Gagan Gill, Easterine Kire to get Sahitya Akademi awards

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Poet Gagan Gill was selected for her book on poetry, Easterine Kire for her novel *Spirit Nights*

Hindi poet Gagan Gill and English writer Easterine Kire are among the 21 recipients of the annual Sahitya Akademi Awards, the organisation announced on Wednesday.

Recommended by jury members in 21 languages, the awards recognise works in different categories.

Ms. Gill was selected for her book on poetry *Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar*, Ms. Kire made it to the coveted list for her novel *Spirit Nights*. The winning list includes eight poetry books, three novels, two short stories, three essays, three works of literary criticism, one play and one research.

Sohan Kaul will receive the award for her Kashmiri novel *Psychiatric Ward*, while Paul Kaur has been selected for her Punjabi book on poetry *Sun Gunvanta Sun Budhivanta: Itihaasnama Punjab*.

The recipients of award in poetry include K. Jayakumar (Malayalam), Haobam Satyabati Devi (Manipuri), Dileep Jhaveri (Gujarati), Sameer Tanti (Assamese), Mukut Maniraj (Rajasthani) and Dipak Kumar Sharma (Sanskrit).

Aron Raja also made it to the winning list in the novels genre for his fiction book *Swrni Thakhai* in Bodo.

Yuva Baral's *Chhichimira* (Nepali) and Hundraj Balwani's *Purzo* (Sindhi) were the picks in the short stories section.

Mukesh Thali (Konkani), Mahendra Malangia (Maithili) and Baishnab Charan Samai (Odia) will receive the award for their essays, while A.R. Venkatachalapathy (Tamil) was recognised for his research, and Maheshwar Sorn for his play *Sechedi Sawnta Ren Andha Manmi* (Santali).

SC mulls tree census with Forest Survey of India's help

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday proposed a tree census to be conducted by the Tree Authority in the national capital by employing the Forest Survey of India (FSI).

A Bench of Justices A.S. Oka and Manmohan also highlighted the need for a supervisory authority over Tree Officers under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994.

Justice Oka said Tree Officers should not be allowed to give indiscriminate permissions to fell trees.

"There should be an expert committee to vet the felling orders of Tree Officers and to see if the trees can be saved. The committee could also supervise the tree census," Justice Oka observed.

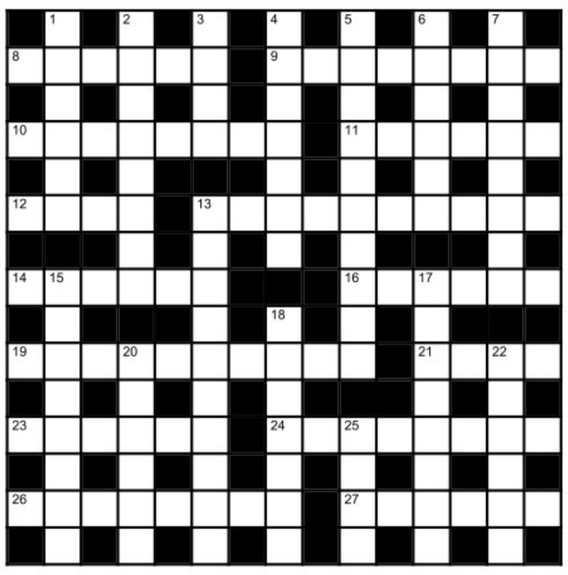
Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati said both the FSI and the Forest Research Institute were equipped to conduct the tree census.

TH CROSSWORD + 14360

(set by Crescent)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Bravely endure hearing charges from behind bar (4,2)
9 Cinerama reels from the U.S. (8)
10 Good to randomly use voir dire (8)
11 Senator drinking rum gets soaked (6)
12 Sac in body pouched in infancy, stomach? (4)
13 New-found energy or back to gas? (6,4)
14 About to install a bar in tent by the beach (6)
16 Large number from district switching sides (6)
19 Obey cops to withdraw from complicated situation (10)
21 Deviant king departing in jet (4)
23 Reportedly extra power and position in activity on the side (6)
24 Gondola's front scratched from punting on river meandering (8)
26 Sad tale does upset (8)
27 Watch the heart (6)

Down

1 Stake in front of a fish shop (6)
2 Each behind counter essentially filling welcome drink (5,3)
3 Capable of plotting (2,2)
4 Managed to fire rifle (7)
5 Friendly bears one's perhaps writing about in one's book (10)
6 Bend over wide opening (6)
7 Strange action involving money Earl inherited (4,4)
13 Chicken's cry as acted out (7-3)
15 Shocking crime, heartless to slay attendants (8)
17 Government shut up after clear impasse (8)
18 Draw clear avoiding a wild hawk (7)
20 Wan look from men under pressure inhibiting everybody (6)
22 German children showing greater understanding (6)
25 Mighty man crowds lifted, a legend (4)

SUDOKU

3		1			9			
		4		2			6	7
					3		9	
1	9			7		4		
	4						5	
		2		1			7	8
	2		4					
5	6			9		7		
			8			5		9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6374 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	8	9	7	1	2	3	5	6
2	1	7	3	6	5	9	4	8
6	5	3	9	8	4	1	7	2
3	6	4	5	9	7	2	8	1
7	2	5	1	3	8	4	6	9
1	9	8	2	4	6	7	3	5
8	3	2	6	7	9	5	1	4
9	4	1	8	5	3	6	2	7
5	7	6	4	2	1	8	9	3

FAITH

Rama's *saranagati* principle

Surrendering to the Lord is the best way to achieve life's true mission, which is to reach God. Fuelled by desire or affection (towards family members), the ordinary man fails to focus on the ultimate goal. However, scriptures remind one of the efficacy of *saranagati*, said Damal S Perundevi in a discourse.

True to his principles, Rama never failed to accept those who surrendered to Him. When Vibhishana sought asylum with Rama, the latter's counsellors had a suspicion that he was his brother Ravana's spy. However, Rama conducts a lesson on dharma by informing the gathering, "The man who is resolute in his adherence to dharma should protect, even at the cost of his own life, the fugitive from the enemy ranks who throws himself on his mercy, whether he does it in abject distress or from pride."

Rama not only offered *saranagati* to Vibhishana, but he also followed his own advice, when He Himself surrendered to the lord of the ocean, seeking a pathway to Lanka and rescue Sita. However, when, even after three days, the ocean king failed to appear, a wrathful Rama asked Lakshmana to fetch his bow and arrows, vowing to render the ocean dry. Immediately, the lord of the ocean appeared and said, "Rama, the sea creatures are under my care and I cannot fail to protect them." Rama appreciated his steadfast stand. The lord of the water further resolved the issue by pointing out that Nala, who was at the seashore was under a strange curse, whereby anything he cast into the water would float. The army of apes quickly gathered rocks and stones and brought them to Nala who threw them into the water, and a bridge took shape, for the army to cross.

INBRIEF

Cybercrime portal saved ₹3,431 crore, Lok Sabha told

The national cybercrime reporting portal has helped save more than ₹3,431 crore through the resolution of 9.94 lakh complaints, Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs B L Verma informed Parliament. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Mr. Verma highlighted the portal's effectiveness in addressing financial cybercrimes. Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories to all States and Union Territories to publicise the portal and its toll-free helpline number 1930. PTI

Indian economy likely to grow at 6.6% in FY26: Ind-Ra

India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra) projected the Indian economy to grow at 6.6% in 2025-26, up from 6.4% in the current financial year. Ind-Ra believes investments will be a key growth driver for the Indian economy in FY26. The Indian economy has experienced a cyclical growth slowdown in the past three quarters, which it expects to reverse from the December quarter. Ind-Ra expects retail inflation in FY26 to average at 4.4%, lower than the FY25 forecast of 4.9%. PTI

Powergrid board gives nod to raise ₹4,250 crore via bonds

State-owned Power Grid Corporation of India said its board approved a proposal to raise up to ₹4,250 crore through bond issue on a private placement basis. "Committee of Directors for Bonds approved raising of bonds as unsecured, non-convertible, non-cumulative, redeemable, taxable, Powergrid Bonds - LXXX (80th) Issue up to ₹4,250 crore on private placement basis,'' it said. The base issue size is ₹1,000 crore with a greenshoe option of ₹3,250 crore. PTI

Net direct tax collections rise 16.5%

Corporate taxes, after factoring in refunds, grew just 8.6% to ₹7.43 lakh crore while non-corporate taxes rose at a much faster pace of 22.5% to ₹7.97 lakh crore; Securities Transaction Tax receipts jumped a sharp 85.5% to over ₹40,100 crore

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

With a little over three months left in 2024-25, India's net direct tax collections were up 16.5%, crossing ₹15.82 lakh crore by December 17, with non-corporate taxes leading the growth.

Net corporate tax receipts were up just 8.6% to close to ₹7.43 lakh crore, while net collections from non-corporate taxes rose at almost thrice the pace at 22.5% to ₹7.97 lakh crore, surpassing the corporate receipts. At the same juncture of last year, corporate taxes accounted for more

Back in hand: Refunds rose 42.5% by December 17 to nearly ₹3.39 lakh crore, with corporate tax refunds surging 70.3%. GETTYIMAGES

contributions to the exchequer than non-corporate entities, which include individuals, Hindu Undivided Families or HUFs, and associations of persons, local authorities, and artificial juridical persons.

Data shared by the Central Board of Direct Taxes on Wednesday showed that gross tax receipts had grown 20.3% so far this year to cross ₹19.21 lakh crore, with corporate taxes rising 16.9% and non-corporate receipts up 22%.

With stock market volumes holding up despite some tumult in valuations in recent months, receipts from the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) were up a sharp 85.5% to over ₹40,100 crore.

Refunds were up 42.5% by December 17 to nearly ₹3.39 lakh crore, with corporate tax refunds surging 70.3% and non-corporate taxpayers seeing a relatively lower 19.8% uptick in refunds. Advance tax collections had risen 20.9% to over ₹7.56 lakh crore from ₹6.25 lakh crore a year ago, but a similar pattern emerged on this front with corporate taxes growing 16.7%, less than half the 35% increase in non-corporate receipts. In 2023-24, net direct tax revenues had risen 17.7% to ₹19.58 lakh crore, with Personal Income Tax (PIT) share rising to 53.3% from 50.06% in the previous year. Recently, the government stopped sharing data with the PIT nomenclature, calling the category non-corporate taxes instead.

Other taxes, that include Equalization Levy, Fringe Benefit Tax, Wealth Tax, Banking Cash Transaction Tax, Hotel Receipt Tax, Interest Tax, Expenditure Tax, Estate Duty and Gift Tax, rose a mere 5.9% from a year ago.

Indians opt for lighter, lower-carat jewellery as gold prices hit the roof

Reuters
MUMBAI

Soaring gold prices have led many Indian families to opt for lightweight and lower-carat jewellery to stay within their budgets, industry officials said.

"I wanted to gift my daughter 80 grams of gold, but I was forced to scale it down to 50 grams because of price increase in the past two years," said Mumbai-based Shubhangi More, choosing a necklace with a traditional design for her daughter's wedding.

Gold prices have surged

22% so far this year, after rising 15% in 2023.

Most Indian buyers prefer traditional jewellery, but now they want it crafted in lightweight designs to fit their budgets, said Bachhraj Bamalwa, partner at jewellery retailer Nemichand Bamalwa & Sons.

"Recognising this preference, we are stocking more lightweight jewellery sets while scaling down our inventory of heavier designs," Mr. Bamalwa said. Advances in manufacturing technology have enabled jewellery makers to craft traditional designs in lighter weights, said Sachin Jain, CEO of the World Gold Council's Indian operations.

Buyers are also switching to lower carat jewellery to reduce costs, jewellers said. Guddi Devi, a teacher from Jamalpur in the northern state of Bihar, bought 18-carat jewellery for her daughter's wedding instead of 22-carat.

Indians traditionally prefer jewellery made in 22-carat gold, which contains 91.7% pure gold, while 18-carat gold contains 75% pure gold and 25% other metals. The price of 18-carat gold is nearly a fifth lower than that of 22-carat gold. "Lower prices and greater durability are making 18-carat jewellery increasingly popular," said Surendra Mehta, secretary, India Bullion and Jewellers Association.

Vishal Mega Mart, One MobiKwik list at premium

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Retailer Vishal Mega Mart Ltd. and payment aggregator One MobiKwik Ltd. listed at a premium on the BSE on Wednesday.

Vishal Mega Mart Ltd. listed at ₹110 a share, a 41% premium over the issue price of ₹78 apiece. The share closed at ₹111.95, up 43.5% over the issue price.

One MobiKwik Ltd. listed at a premium of 58.5% at ₹442.25 apiece. The share closed at ₹530.3, or 90% over the issue price.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	80,182	-0.62
US Dollar	84.94	-0.03
Gold	79,100	-0.25
Brent oil	74.05	1.85

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2457.40	-30.20
Adani Ports	1210.05	-21.85
Apollo Hosp	7237.40	18.65
Asian Paints	2345.45	-10.55
Axis Bank	1122.25	-14.00
Bajaj Auto	8956.75	61.75
Bajaj Finserv	1630.75	-12.40
Bajaj Finance	7074.45	-78.35
Bharat Elec	303.80	-6.80
Bharti Airtel	1601.90	-13.40
BPCL	288.30	-4.70
Britannia Ind	4782.65	5.90
Cipla	1472.40	21.55
Coal India	395.80	-7.10
Dr Reddys Lab	1275.40	27.75
Eicher Motors	4749.85	7.20
Grasim Ind	2594.15	-5.55
HCL Tech	1960.35	9.75
HDFC Bank	1810.70	-22.55
HDFC Life	624.55	-2.20
Hero MotoCorp	4389.45	-25.65
Hindalco	633.00	-6.45
Hind Unilever	2359.20	-4.05
ICICI Bank	1314.15	-19.60
IndusInd Bank	965.20	-10.45
Infosys	1979.15	2.55
ITC	470.50	0.95
JSW Steel	946.85	-20.00
Kotak Bank	1780.00	-4.05
L&T	3758.15	-49.05
M&M	3051.20	9.70
Maruti Suzuki	11002.45	-106.10
NestleIndia	2188.05	-14.90
NTPC	341.75	-7.30
ONGC	244.15	-3.25
PowerGrid Corp	321.55	-8.25
Reliance Ind	1253.25	7.95
SBI Life	1398.00	-11.70
State Bank	838.15	-12.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2931.40	-45.50
Sun Pharma	1801.05	12.00
TataConsumerProduct	909.35	4.45
Tata Motors	755.70	-24.05
Tata Steel	144.46	-1.22
TCS	4347.85	19.35
Tech Mahindra	1778.90	8.15
Titan	3401.90	-4.20
Trent Ltd.	7113.75	172.10
UltraTech Cement	11763.95	-11.00
Wipro	312.60	3.75

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.75	85.07
Euro	88.99	89.33
British Pound	107.77	108.18
Japanese Yen (100)	55.18	55.39
Chinese Yuan	11.63	11.68
Swiss Franc	94.81	95.17
Singapore Dollar	62.74	62.99
Canadian Dollar	59.17	59.40
Malaysian Ringitt	18.95	19.04
Australian Dollar	53.51	53.72

Source:Indian Bank

Zomato's Goyal, DMart's Damani top Hurun's list of self-made entrepreneurs

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Avenue Supermarkets Ltd. (DMart) promoter Radhakishan Damani, Zomato founder Deepinder Goyal and Swiggy's Sriharsha Majety and Nandan Reddy have secured the top three positions respectively in the second edition of IDFC First Private Banking and Hurun India's 'India's top 200 self-made entrepreneurs of the millennia 2024' which was released on Wednesday.

In the face of emerging challenges from quick-commerce, Mr. Damani grew his company's valuation by 44% to ₹3.4 lakh crore while Zomato and Swiggy saw their valuation growing up by 190% and 52% respectively to ₹2.52 lakh crore and ₹1.01 lakh crore. Kaivalya Vohra, 21, and Aadit Palicha, 22, cofounders of Zepto, were the youngest self-made entrepreneurs with their valuation more than doubling to ₹41,800 crore.

Happiest Minds Founder Ashok Soota, 81, was the eldest in the list of self-made entrepreneurs.

Among the 19 women on the list, Falguni Nayar of Nykaa leads as the highest-ranked woman, breaking into the top 10 with a 30% valuation gain.

Ghazal Alagh (36) of MamaEarth has become the youngest woman entrepreneur, with her company's valuation increasing 55% to ₹15,500 crore.

As many as 56 founders representing 32 companies were added to this year's list.

myTVS enters quick com segment for distribution of auto parts, lubricants

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

MyTVS, a brand of Ki Mobility and part of TVS Mobility group, announced its entry into the quick commerce segment for distribution of auto parts and lubricants for passenger and commercial vehicles.

"We are planning to open 250 dark stores branded as myTVS Hypermart in the next three years," MD G. Srinivasa Raghavan said during a media interaction.

Out of the 250, 50 dark stores would come up in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra and Gujarat by March 2025. Currently, Ta-

G. Srinivasa Raghavan

mil Nadu and Kerala have 14 dark stores, Mr. Raghavan said.

"Customers can order parts online using myTVS app and we promise to deliver within two hours to the retailers," he said.

According to him, myTVS has built the country's largest digital catalogue of parts and lubricants, featuring eight million stock-keeping units (SKUs) for both commercial vehicles and passenger cars. myTVS aims to connect 50,000 garages and retailers across the country by 2025.

These stores will leverage AI-driven supply chain technology to ensure minimal returns and deliver the right product at the right place and at the right time.

Through this innovative approach, partner retailers will be able to significantly enhance their product portfolio while reducing the inventory holding period to nil, he said.

Infosys opens development centre in Kolkata

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infosys, a digital services and consulting firm, on Wednesday inaugurated a 3.2 lakh sq.ft. development centre in Kolkata, West Bengal, built at a cost of ₹426 crore.

The new facility is designed to accommodate more than 4,000 staff under a hybrid working model, said the company.

The centre would provide employees greater flexibility and enable them to work on cutting-edge technologies such as cloud, AI and digital, across a diverse range of industries, Infosys said.

GIC adds $150 million in Asia Healthcare

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based Asia Healthcare Holdings (AHH), a single specialty hospitals-focused healthcare platform backed by GIC and TPG, on Wednesday said that GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, would invest an additional $150 million in AHH.

This follows GIC's investment of $170 million in AHH in February 2022. To date, AHH has invested about $300 million across hospital chains in oncology, mother and childcare, urology and nephrology, IVF and fertility under daycare specialty.

According to a statement, AHH's platform currently includes Motherhood Hospitals, Nova IVF, and Asian Institute of Nephrology & Urology.

Vishal Bali

"Looking ahead, we continue to see huge growth opportunities in single specialty healthcare delivery enterprises," said Vishal Bali, executive chairman, Asia Healthcare Holdings, in a statement.

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-Tender Notice
O/o The Deputy Chief Engineer, Electrical Circle, Perumbavoor, Ernakulam
E Tender ID No. 2024_KSEB_716358_1, PAC: Rs. 4,29,15,165/-, Last Date: 27.12.2024, 05.00 pm
O/o The Executive Engineer, PMU, Electrical Circle, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur
E Tender ID No.2024_KSEB_ 715231_1, PAC: Rs. 2,24,38,607/-, Last Date: 30.12.2024, 03.00 pm
Tender Extension Notice
O/o The Deputy Chief Engineer, (Civil Construction) South, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB_709606_1, PAC: Rs.5,09,19,161/-, Last Date: 01.01.2025 05.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref : PR/MC1/E533/E-tender/2024

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDHYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 132 KV D/C line from LILO point (of 132 KV S/C Kankroli - sapol line at 220 KV GSS Bamantukda) to 132 KV GSS Kelwara on labour contract basis (Approx 35 Km) under BN-9018002430 are invited from interested bidders upto 4.00 PM (time) 15.01.2025 (date). Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, and www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl Departmental website.
UBN : VPN2223WSOB02307
Raj.Samwad/C/24/9261 RRVPN/TR-6526/2024 Superintending Engineer (Contract-I), Jaipur

UN IDENTIFIED DEAD BODY
An un identified dead body of a male aged about 35 years, medium complexion and height of 1Mtr 65 CMs was found floating on 03.12.2024 at Alappatt Kadavu in Pampa River (about 3 days old). A Tatoo is seen in left wrist. Pale brown colour pants worn at the time of death. It is suspected that he is from the State of Andrapradesh or Telangana. If anyone know anything regarding him kindly inform Police Inspector Pampa - 9497987049 or Pampa Police Station - 04735203412.
F2/573/2024/I&PRD

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED REGION NCR ALWAR
Manu Marg Alwar (Raj.)
No- 4147 Date- 12/12/2024
NOTICE INVITING BID (Nit No. 05/2024-25)
Bids for Work of construction of Sources, rising main piplines, CWR, OHSR, Pump house, internal village distribution pipeline and FHTC including one year Defect Liability period of Village Thana under Sub division Rajgarh under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Rajgarh (Alwar) are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM on Date 14.01.2025. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
UBN:- PHE2425WSOB07090
ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
DIPR/C/13142/2024 REGION NCR ALWAR

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement)
BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for the Enquiry No.: BESCOM/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT289 for "Strengthening of F-11 Ganakallu Feeder by Replacing existing overhead conductor to HTUG Cable in Kengeri O&M unit 22 of K1 Sub Division of Kengeri Division of Bangalore West Circle, BMASZ, BESCOM for a period of One Year under Partial Turnkey Basis".
Bid Documents available: 19.12.2024. Last date for Bid Submission: 17.01.2025, 17:00 Hrs. Opening of Bid Document: 18.01.2025, 17:15 Hrs.
The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com.
Sd/-
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912 Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
Chief General Manager (Ele.,), Procurement, BESCOM

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER
PHONE NO.: 0145-2624748, Email- aceregionajmer@gmail.com
No. F.()/Ar.MP/2024-2025/11259-11308 Dated: 16.12.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS
Bids for the work of Water Supply Scheme for Augmentation of UWSS Shahpura and Jahajpur, District Shahpura including 05 Years O&M after 01 year Defect Liability Period under AMRUT 2.0 (NIT No. 04/2024-25; Estimated Cost Rs. 1676.85 Lacs) are invited from interested bidders up to 07.01.2025. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
UBN NO.: PHE2425WLOB07102, NIB NO.: PHE2425A3348
(Ram Chandra Rar)
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/13111/2024 PHED, Region, Ajmer

Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corp.
Kaushal Bhawan, J8-B, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur-302004
Notice Inviting Request for Proposal (RFP)
Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) invites proposal for selection of Project Management Consulting Agency (PMCA).

Project name	Project Management Consultancy Agency (PMCA) for RSLDC

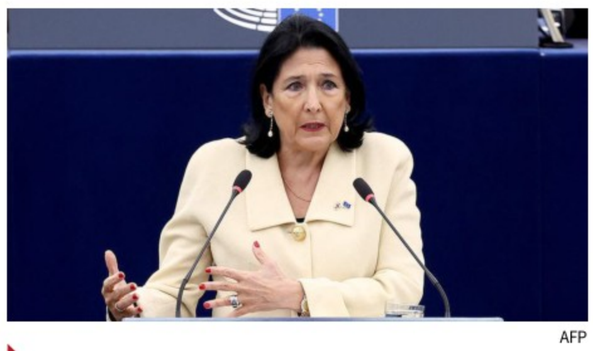
Particulars	Dates
Pre Bid Meeting date and time	23.12.2024 at 03:00 PM
Last date & time for submission of Bid	07.01.2025 up to 06:00 PM
Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid	08.01.2025 at 03:00 PM

For further details of RFP and process of online submission visit RSLDC website - www.livelihoods.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/24/9283 Managing Director RSLDC

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
BRIEF TENDER / ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through KPP Portal Only)
KPCL invites tenders from the contractors/agencies/who are reputed individuals/ Company and having past experience, and reputed bidders for the following works. 1). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2389, Date. 12.12.2024. Supply, Retrofitting, Testing and Commissioning of LT breakers, protection relays, control circuit of ACB panels and Bus VT panels at Control Room Switchgear and UP-gradation of Conveyors 9A1 and 9B1 Modules to breaker situated at Tippler Switchgear CHP-1 of RTPS. EMD: Rs. 63,352/-. 2). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2390, Date. 12.12.2024. Up-gradation of conveyor 9A2 and 9B2 LT motors from 160KW to 180KW along with LT breakers at CHP-1 of RTPS. EMD: Rs. 44,910/-. 3). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2374, Date. 09.12.2024. Up-gradation of existing lighting system to LED lighting systems by supplying and fixing of LED flood lights along with cable at all bunkers and Junction Towers of CHP-1 & 2 of RTPS. EMD: Rs.1,46,597/-. 4). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2372, Date. 09.12.2024. Supply and Laying of 1CX 630 Sq.mm 6.6 KV, XLPE, HT cable from Unit 1 & 2 Station switchgear to Incomer Station A of Control room switchgear at CHP-1 RTPS. EMD: Rs.1,01,208/-. 5). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2397, Date. 14.12.2024. Repair and servicing of 1 No. 7.5T, 1 No. 10T EOT Cranes in Unit - IV Mill Bay and 1 No. 10T & 1 No. 15T EOT Cranes in workshops. EMD: Rs. 53,401/-. 6). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT2270/CALL-2, Date. 12.12.2024. Retrofitting of BAPCON Controllers by latest version of microprocessor based controller & providing PC Based Integrated Operating System in any one of unit - 5 to 7 ESP system. EMD: Rs. 2,00,000/-. 7). KPCL/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT2360, Date. 13.12.2024. Supply Shifting, erection and termination of various capacity LT motors of at Unit - 3 & 4 of RTPS. 8). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT 2382, Date. 13.12.2024. Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Ratchet Mechanism for five number of CWP pumps pertaining to Unit -5 & 6 by providing required spares. EMD: Rs. 1,90,770/-.
Last date for submission of tenders: For Sl. No. 1, 2 & 7: 27.12.2024, 17:30Hrs. For Sl. No. 3 & 4 : 23.12.2024, 17:30Hrs. For Sl. No.5: 30.12.2024, 16:00Hrs. For Sl. No.6: 20.12.2024, 16:00Hrs. For Sl. No. 8: 27.12.2024, 16:30Hrs. Further details can be had for Sl. No. 1 to 4, from the office of the Executive Engineer (CHP)E-1, For Sl. No. 5 Executive Engineer (MM-1), Mobile No. : 94495 96545, For Sl. No. 6, Executive Engineer (LT-2), Mobile No.: 94495 96531, For Sl. No. 7, Executive Engineer (LT-1), Mobile No.: 94495 96537, For Sl. No. 8, Executive Engineer (CAM-1), RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar - 584170. Website: https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in

BRUSSELS

Georgia's outgoing President urges EU to pressure pro-Russia govt.

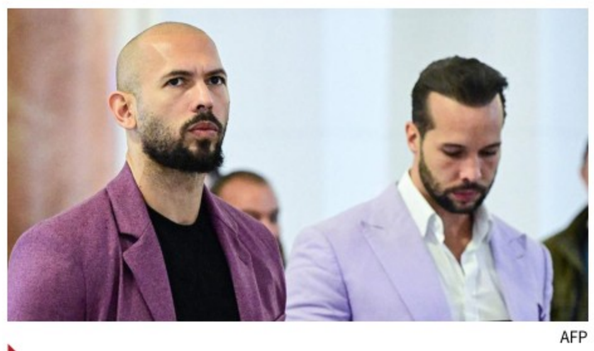


AFP

Georgia's outgoing President Salome Zourabichvili urged the EU to pressure the pro-Russia government for new elections amid police crackdowns on protests. Tens of thousands have protested against the suspension of EU accession talks, criticising the government's increasing authoritarianism and violence against demonstrators. AP

LONDON

British court allows seizure of over $2.5 million from Andrew Tate



AFP

A British court has authorised police to seize over £2 million ($2.5 million) from Andrew and Tristan Tate for unpaid taxes on £21 million in revenue from their online businesses. The court deemed their financial activities a "straightforward cheat" of tax authorities amid ongoing legal troubles in Romania. AP

TEHRAN

Iranian lawmakers seek amends to Bill on stricter hijab penalty

AFP

Iranian lawmakers have requested amendments to a Bill imposing stricter penalties on women who refuse to wear the mandatory hijab. The Bill, approved by Parliament, has sparked debate following protests against the dress code. Vice President Shahram Dabiri has requested to hold off on sending the Bill for approval. AFP

LATAKIA

HTS says it will dissolve armed wing, integrate into national forces

The military chief of Syria's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), Murhaf Abu Qasra, known by his nom de guerre Abu Hassan al-Hamawi, announced plans to dissolve the group's armed wing and integrate into the national forces, rejecting federalism. He also demanded the lifting of the group's terrorist designation. AFP

Arms control is a thing of the past: Russia's top General

Decreased emphasis on arms control is due to the waning trust with West, says Valery Gerasimov; he accuses the U.S. of undermining key treaties; says Moscow intends to strengthen ties with China

Reuters
MOSCOW

Changing stance: President Vladimir Putin and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov during a meeting of the Russian Defence Ministry Board at the National Defence Control Centre in Moscow. AFP

Russia now views arms control over the vast nuclear arsenals that were built up during the Cold War to be a thing of the past due to the lack of trust between Moscow and the West, Russia's top general said on Wednesday.

Russia and the United States, by far the biggest nuclear powers, have both expressed regret about the disintegration of the tangle of arms control treaties which sought to slow the arms race and reduce the risk of nuclear war.

Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov accused the United States of stoking conflicts across the world and sinking key Cold War arms control treaties. He said Russia, in response, would develop ties with China, India, Iran, North Korea and Venezuela.

"On the whole, the topic of arms control remains in the past, since a return to a minimum level of trust is impossible today due to the double standards of the West," Mr. Gerasimov was quoted as saying by the Defence Ministry.

"Without trust, it is impossible to create an effective mechanism for mutual control," he said. "Many countries have begun to think about adequate response measures."

The United States, which casts Russia and China as the biggest nation-state threats to the West, blames Russia for the collapse of agreements such as the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

The United States formally withdrew from the INF Treaty in 2019, citing Russian violations which Moscow denied. The United States withdrew from the ABM treaty in 2002.

President Vladimir Putin in 2023 suspended Russian participation in the New START treaty that limits both sides' strategic nuclear weapons, blaming U.S. support for Ukraine. However, Moscow has kept to the warhead, missile and bomber limits imposed by the agreement - as has the United States.

Mr. Gerasimov said that the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe and Asia was stoking "a strategic offensive arms race", with a build-up of U.S. forces in the Philippines of particular concern to Russia.

He said Russia had seen increased activity by the U.S.-led NATO military alliance near Russia's borders.

After Ukraine struck Russian territory last month with long-range missiles supplied by the United States, the U.S. had become a direct participant in the conflict in Ukraine, the general added.

'Suspect in killing of senior Russian General held'

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russia's security service said on Wednesday that it has detained a suspect in the killing of a senior General in Moscow.

The suspect was described as an Uzbek citizen recruited by Ukrainian intelligence services.

Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov was killed on Tuesday by a bomb hidden in a scooter outside his apartment building in Moscow, a day after Ukraine's security service levelled criminal charges against him. His assistant also died in the attack. A Ukrainian official said the service carried out the attack.

Israeli strikes kill at least 12 Palestinians in shelter

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Palestinian houses stand badly damaged during the ongoing Israeli military operation in Beit Lahiya, Gaza, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli strikes on Monday across the territory killed at least 12 people, the majority displaced Palestinians taking shelter in a house in the north.

More than 14 months into the Israel-Hamas war, the violence raged on even as the United States expressed "cautious optimism" about the prospects of reaching a ceasefire in Gaza.

Civil defence spokesperson Mahmud Bassal said that 10 Palestinians were killed when an Israeli strike at dawn hit a house in northern Gaza's Beit Lahia, where several displaced families had sought refuge.

Elsewhere in northern Gaza, Mr. Bassal said a child was killed and several others wounded in a strike that hit a house in Jabalia, where Israeli forces have focused their operations.

Overnight, a tent in an Israeli-designated safe zone in the southern Gaza Strip was hit, killing one Palestinian, according to the civil defence spokesperson.

Parties to long-stalled ceasefire talks said a deal could be secured soon to halt the fighting.

Pakistan postpones polio vaccination drive

Press Trust of India
QUETTA

Pakistani authorities on Wednesday postponed a polio vaccination campaign in the country's restive southern Balochistan province after health workers boycotted it to oppose a proposed privatisation of hospitals.

Authorities on Monday launched the final nationwide polio vaccination campaign for the year, aiming to protect 45 million children.

According to the World Health Organisation, Pakistan and neighbouring Afghanistan remain the only two countries where the potentially fatal, paralysing virus has not been eradicated.

Anwarul Haq of the National Emergency Operation Centre for Polio Eradication, said the polio vaccination campaign in Balochistan was delayed until December 30 for "better preparedness".

However, other health and government officials said the campaign in Balochistan was postponed after health workers refused to join it and demanded that the government stop plans to privatise state-run hospitals where they work. Representatives of health workers have also urged the government not to employ unqualified workers to carry out the campaign.

Trump jokes Canada becoming the 51st U.S. State 'a great idea'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said on Wednesday it would be "a great idea" for Canada to become the 51st U.S. State, teasing on social media that "many Canadians" welcome the idea, as Ottawa is wracked by a political crisis.

"Many Canadians want Canada to become the 51st State," Mr. Trump posted on Truth Social. "They would save massively on taxes and military protection. I think it is a great idea. 51st State!!!" he added.

The post is not the first time Mr. Trump has publicly mused at the idea, a joke that some have found in bad taste, particularly following the shock resignation of Canada's Deputy Prime Minister on Monday.

However, a recent poll indicated that 13% of Canadians favour the idea of Statehood.

Xi, wife visit Macao to mark 25 years of its return to Chinese rule

Associated Press
MACAO

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday began a three-day visit to Macao to mark the 25th anniversary of the casino city's return to Chinese rule.

Mr. Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, were welcomed at the airport by a lavish ceremony with lion and dragon dances. Mr. Xi told reporters that Macao, a former Portuguese colony of 6,87,000 people, is "the pearl in the motherland's palm".

Like Hong Kong, Beijing has ruled Macao under the "one country, two systems" principle that allows the cities to retain their own legal and economic systems. Macao is the only city in China where casino gambling is legal.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE

1st Corrigendum to e-N.I.B. No. 02 of 2024-2025 of The Superintending Engineer & Project Director, Project Implementation Unit-I, circulated vide This office Memo No. 290-R/PIU-I, Dated. 27.11.2024 for the work "Construction of proposed bridge over river Muriganga including approaches to connect Kachuberia Sagar Island with Kakdwip in the district of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract." Tender ID : 2024_WBPWD_774881_1. Pre Bid Meeting: 05.02.2025 at 2.00 P.M. Bid Submission Start Date: 20/02/2025 at 3.00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 10/03/2025 upto 3.00 P.M. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from : http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- SE & PD, PIU-I, PWRD, GOVT. OF W.B.

ICA- T23388(5)/2024

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत चूरू
क्रमांक :-1886 दिनांक :-16.12.2024
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 06/2024-25
इच्छुक निविदादाताओं से जिला चूरू में आर.यू.बी. का निर्माण कार्य (मय पाँच वर्ष के दोष निवारण व सुधार अवधि) कुल एक आर.यू.बी. कार्य हेतु अनुमानित लागत राशि रू. 397.15 लाख की ऑन लाईन निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। कार्य के निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 07.01.2025 सांय6.00 बजे तक ऑनलाईन अपलोड करना आवश्यक होगा। उक्त निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण राज्य सरकार के प्रोक्योरमेंट पोर्टल http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in व विभागीय वेबसाईट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते है।
एन.आई.बी. नं. :- PWD2425A3334
यू.बी.एन नं :- PWD2425WSOB12253
DIPR/C/13129/2024
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि वृत चूरू

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES ZONE, JAIPUR
Sinchai Bhawan, J.L.N. Marg, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur
E-mail-acejpr.wr@gmail.com
No.-F(352)/ACE/JPR/Acctts/2024-25/5105 Date: 14.12.2024
e-NIB No.- 11/2024-25
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bids are invited from eligible bidders for the work of Flood Protection work of Drains of Bandiya village and Muhami village with Causeway Tehsil Ajmer. Estimated value is **Rs. 450.00 Lac**. Last date of submission of Bid is 08/01/2025. Detailed Bid & Bid document can be seen on & downloaded from official website (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, & http://sppp.raj.nic.in)
UBN No.:- WRD2425WSOB01366
NIB Code No.:- WRD2425A0369
DIPR/C/13093/2024
Additional Chief Engineer
WRD, Zone Jaipur

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KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001.
Phone No. 080-22265383. email: cdoce2@kiadb.in, Website: www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/PMC/EPTND-EP-12/1861/2024-25 Date: 18.12.2024
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR PROVIDING PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY SERVICES
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
KIADB is inviting tender under Quality Based Consultancy System (QCBS) as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Consulting Firms under two cover system for the following work of **Project Management Consultancy service for the work of Upgradation of Road, Including Asphalting & Construction of RCC drains in Raichur Growth Centre Industrial Area, Raichur District (4th Call).**
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **02.01.2025 upto 04:00 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/JA/3833/2024-25
Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDINGS (C&M) CIRCLE, TRICHY-1.
e-TENDER NOTICE No.10/ 2024-25 / SE / B / (C&M) / C/ TRY-1/ Dated: 17.12.2024
PRE QUALIFICATION APPLICATION TENDER / ITEM WISE RATE TENDER (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMPSUM
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C & M) Circle, Trichy-1 from the eligible registered contractors of PWD for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work Rs.in lakhs	Amount of EMD (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Eligible Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Construction of Grand Library and Intellectual Centre at Trichy in Trichy District.	Rs.17552.81	Rs.87,87,000/-	18 Months	Class IA (As per revised class)

1. For Tender documents Visit **https://. tntenders.gov.in**
2. Tender documents available at Website: **From : 27.12 .2024 to 30.01.2025 up to 3.00 P.M**
3. Last Date and Time for submission of tender documents through online: **30.01.2025 upto 3.00 P.M**
4. Date and Time of opening of the e-tender: **31.01.2025, 3.30 P.M on wards.**
DIPR/5536/TENDER/2024
Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.
Buildings (C&M) Circle, Trichy-1.

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646)
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/106/2024 Date : 18.12.2024
E-TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited from manufacturers/loan licensees on behalf of Animal Husbandary Department, Govt of Kerala for the procurement of Deworming Medicines for the year 2024-25.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	Category	No. of Items
1.	KMSCL/AHD-VET/RC/2024/030 dtd.18.12.2024	Deworming Medicines	03

Schedule of dates

	Date	Time
Last date of online uploading of tenders	13.01.2025	05.00 pm. onwards
Date of technical bid opening	16.01.2025	11.00 am. onwards

Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

DEJA VU

Ashwin joins Dhoni & Kumble in retiring midway through Oz series

FILE PHOTO

A sense of *deja vu* accompanied R. Ashwin's retirement from international cricket as it reminded the cricket fraternity of the days when M.S. Dhoni and Anil Kumble, just like the spinner, exited the scene in the middle of a series against Australia. Dhoni retired from red-ball cricket in 2014, while Kumble stepped away in 2008.

ACCOLADES APLENTY

ICC and BCCI praise Ashwin on a glorious career

FILE PHOTO

The ICC and BCCI have lauded Ashwin, who has announced his retirement . "A magician with the ball and an astute thinker of the game. An international career to be proud of @ashwinravi99," ICC chief Jay Shah posted on X. Ashwin's contributions to Indian cricket are nothing short of exceptional, the BCCI said in a release.

RICH HAUL

Ashwin exits as top wicket-taker in World Test Championship

GETTY IMAGES

R. Ashwin, who bid goodbye to international cricket on Wednesday, was the first in World Test Championship (WTC) history to take 100 wickets. He achieved the the milestone in March, 2022. Ashwin tops the overall list too with 195 scalps from 41 Tests followed by Australian off-spinner Nathan Lyon (190 from 46).

SOUVENIR

Cummins and Lyon present signed Australia jersey to Ashwin

BCCI

Skipper Pat Cummins and top Australia spinner Nathan Lyon on Wednesday presented a signed Australian jersey to R. Ashwin as he bid adieu to international cricket. "Well done mate, thank you, you have been great," Cummins said while giving the jersey to the talisman Indian spinner.

The cricket scientist hangs up his coat

In a glittering international career spanning 14 years, the 38-year-old Ashwin plotted and outwitted batters with his bag of tricks

I've always admired how you approached the game with your mind and heart in perfect sync. From perfecting the carrom ball to contributing crucial runs, you always found a way to win

SACHIN TENDULKAR

Spinning into cricketing folklore

Master craftsman Ashwin will be known as much for his wily bowling as the

765

wickets he took on the international stage

TEST BOWLING CHART

	M	Inns	Wkts
Muralitharan	133	230	800
Warne	145	273	708
Anderson	188	350	704
Kumble	132	236	619
Broad	167	309	604
McGrath	124	243	563
Ashwin	106	200	537

ASHWIN'S TEST BOWLING RECORD

Matches 106
Innings 200
Wickets 537
BBI 7/59
Average 24.0
5WI/10WM 37/8

THREE-FIGURE KNOCKS

103 vs West Indies, Mumbai (2011)
124 vs West Indies, Kolkata (2013)
113 vs West Indies, North Sound (2016)
118 vs West Indies, Gros Islet (2016)
106 vs England, Chennai (2021)
113 vs Bangladesh, Chennai (2024)

ASHWIN'S BOWLING RECORD (TESTS)

	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Avg	SR	5WI/10WM
Overall	106	200	537	7/59	13/140	24.00	50.7	37/8
Home	65	127	383	7/59	13/140	21.57	46.0	29/6
Away	40	71	150	7/71	12/131	30.55	63.1	8/2
Neutral*	1	2	4	2/17	4/45	11.25	37.5	0/0

*WTC final vs New Zealand in England, 2021

BY OPPONENT

	M	Inns	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Avg	SR	5WI/10WM
Australia	23	43	115	7/103	12/198	28.58	63.2	7/1
England	24	45	114	6/55	12/167	27.72	55.9	8/1
New Zealand	12	23	75	7/59	13/140	18.53	39.2	6/3
West Indies	13	25	75	7/71	12/131	20.48	42.1	6/1
Sri Lanka	11	21	62	6/46	10/160	21.93	43.9	3/1
South Africa	14	26	57	7/66	12/98	22.28	53.0	5/1
Bangladesh	8	15	34	6/88	6/117	24.35	47.7	2/0
Afghanistan	1	2	5	4/27	5/59	11.80	23.6	0/0

ASHWIN IN WHITE-BALL FORMATS

BOWLING	M	Inns	Wkts	BB	Avg	Econ	4W
ODIs	116	114	156	4/25	33.20	4.93	1
T20Is	65	65	72	4/8	23.22	6.90	2

TRIBUTE

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

Massive respect for what Ashwin has achieved: Cummins

Pat Cummins admitted to being surprised while reacting to R. Ashwin's retirement from international cricket. "Yeah, it was a bit of a surprise (Ashwin's retirement). He is one of the greats of the game. We have had some battles, be it here and in India. From our change-rooms, we have massive respect for what he has achieved."

Spinning a web around perplexed batters, talking about cricket and doing YouTube videos on a variety of subjects, all come naturally to R. Ashwin. He can be many things at once but if there was one attribute that consumed him intensely, it was his passion for the willow game.

To see Ashwin at nets, before a game or during a match, is to observe someone immersed completely in sport.

On Wednesday morning here at the Gabba, Ashwin was exchanging notes with Nathan Lyon. And when the third Test concluded and a rainy evening prevailed, Ashwin walked away with a slew of individual records while being the star of many Indian triumphs over a storied career.

This was a retirement as sudden as the one that M.S. Dhoni sprung upon an unsuspecting media at Melbourne back in 2014. The former Indian captain's Test exit emerged through a Board of Control for Cricket in India press release, thankfully Ashwin addressed the cricket writers.

To possess 537 wickets, currently seventh in the all-time list, 37 five-wicket hauls, and 3,503 runs with six hundreds, mark Ashwin as a great in Tests.

It is a format he embraced well even if his initial foray into the spotlight were through his spells in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

In One-Day Internationals, Ashwin bagged 156 wickets and made a belated comeback too, such was his zeal to compete.

In his formative years, the Tamil Nadu off-spinner had to deal with inevitable comparisons.

It is a hard corner that all Indian members of the slow-art have to contend with. Be it the famous spin-quartet or his immediate predecessors - Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh, Ashwin was dealing with multiple shadows and massive boots.

Clean action

He bided his time, performed consistently, had a clean action, was never averse to speaking his mind and more importantly kept learning.

On home surfaces, he was an indispensable champion and a large reason for India being deemed a fortress in its backyard over the last decade and a half.

Twice when his performance marginally dipped, be it against England in 2012 or New Zealand this year, India lost.

Just like the late Shane Warne, Ashwin was evangelical about promoting spin. He always spoke a good-game, would drop hints about a mystery delivery he was working upon and highlight the specific areas he was fine-tuning at training.

He kept an eye on the game, knew about the latest stars, their strengths and vulnerabilities. This was a man, bringing his engineering background into play, and precision always mattered to him.

Leaving on his terms

At 38, Ashwin was battling against time, and he made the decision to leave on his own terms. But the last has not been seen of him. He will turn out for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, a home-coming of sorts.

And as Rohit Sharma said with a cheeky grin, at some point Ashwin will become part of the media bandwagon, perhaps as a commentator. He leaves as one of India's greatest cricketers.

Ashwin. AFP

Convinced Ashwin to stay till the pink-ball Test, says Rohit

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

It was a Wednesday of speculations while the rains drenched the Gabba. Talk of a retirement hung in the air and once R. Ashwin made it clear that he is bowing out of the international game, all speculations instantaneously died.

Rohit Sharma had an inkling since the first Test at Perth. Facing the media after Ashwin left the press-conference hall, the Indian skipper said: "Some decisions are very personal and I don't think too many questions should be asked. If a player has a choice, he has to be given that choice and somebody like Ashwin, who has been there for so many years, is allowed to make these decisions and we as teammates have to respect it. He was very sure about what he wanted to do."

Speaking about the genesis of this decision, Rohit elaborated: "I heard this when I came to Perth. There are obviously a lot of things that went behind it. Ash will be able to answer that. But he understands what the team is thinking, the kind of combinations we are thinking about. When I arrived in Perth, this was the chat we had. I somehow convinced him to stay for that pink-ball Test (at Adelaide), and then after, you know, it just happened that he felt that if 'I am not needed right time to say goodbye'."

Asked about his personal memories specific to Ashwin, Rohit said: "I have played cricket with Ash since under-17. He was an opener then. And then a few years later, I am hearing news from Tamil Nadu that R. Ashwin is taking five wickets, seven wickets. I played him as a batter and then suddenly he turned out to be a bowler who's taking five-for. Then in international cricket we met again and had a long journey together since 2010."

Rohit turned effusive while describing Ashwin's contribution to Indian cricket: "He is a true match winner that India has ever seen. Whenever there was a crisis, we looked at Ash and he was there to deliver for us. His record speaks for itself. He has been a servant of Indian cricket and has not left any stone unturned."

I've played with you for 14 years and when you told me today you're retiring, it made me a bit emotional and the flashbacks of all those years playing together came to me

VIRAT KOHLI

I have had a lot of fun and created a lot of memories

Sports Bureau
BRISBANE

A legend bowed out of the game in a matter-of-fact way at the Gabba here on Wednesday evening. Shortly after the third Test concluded in a draw, R. Ashwin accompanied his skipper Rohit Sharma to the press-conference hall. Soon the ace spinner made it obvious why he was there as he announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect.

His statement: I really didn't want to make this about myself. Honestly, I think it would have been better if (Jasprit) Bumrah was here or Akash Deep was here. But Rohit (Sharma) is unfortunate to have me along his side. I am not going to take too much of your time. This will be my last day as an Indian cricketer in all formats at the international level.

I do feel there is a bit of punch left in me as a cricketer but I would like to expose and probably showcase that in club-level cricket but this will be the last day.

I have had a lot of fun. I must say I have created a lot of memories alongside Rohit and several of my other teammates even though I have lost some of them over the last few years. We are the last bunch of OGs. Obviously there are a lot of people to thank but I would be failing in my duties if I don't thank the BCCI and fellow teammates. I want to name a few of them. All the coaches who have been part of the journey, most importantly Rohit, Virat (Kohli), Ajinkya (Rahane), (Cheteshwar) Pujara, who have taken those splendid catches to give me the number of wickets I have managed to get over the years.

Also a big thank you to the Australian cricket team who have been very fierce competitors. I have enjoyed my time playing against them. I think it is already getting long. I wouldn't be taking any questions. But it is truly a very emotional moment. I don't think I am in a position where I would be answering the questions in the right way. So please pardon me for that. Once again, that is my time. Thanks for being the journalists that you have been, writing good things and, of course, writing nasty things on occasions.

That's a relationship I think we would maintain forever and I hope the cricketers to come in the future will also get the same amount of love.

Once again, thank you all and yeah, see you all soon. As a cricketer, I'll just stop and I might go on to be involved with the game because this is a game that has given me everything.

THE GREATEST INDIAN OFF-SPINNER

Well done for being the flag-bearer of Indian spin for more than a decade

HARBHAJAN SINGH

A privilege to see you grow from a young bowler to a legend of modern cricket! You will be missed, brother!

GAUTAM GAMBHIR

Your journey has been nothing short of extraordinary! With over 700 international wickets and a keen cricketing mind, you are one of the finest to have graced the field

ANIL KUMBLE

Glad you were part of the international game for so long with such excellence. You taught, you educated and you entertained

IAN BISHOP

For me, you are the greatest Indian off-spinner, true Test all-rounder and a modern-day great

MOHD. KAIF

INBRIEF

It's time somebody from NCA talked about Shami: Rohit

Rohit Sharma stressed that the last word on Mohammed Shami's return to the Indian team, belongs to the physios at the NCA in Bengaluru. "About Shami, it's time somebody from the NCA talks. Those guys are the ones who need to give us an update. I understand he is playing a lot of cricket back home, but there have been some complaints about his knee. The last thing you want is a player coming here and then pulling out in the middle of the game," the Indian skipper said.

Salman, Saim take Pakistan past South Africa in first ODI

Career-best performances by all-rounder Salman Agha and a hundred by opener Saim Ayub led Pakistan to a three-wicket win over South Africa in the first ODI here on Tuesday. Salman's unbeaten 82 from 90 balls finished off Pakistan's well-paced chase with three balls remaining. That came after Salman took 4/32 with his part-time off-spin and started the Proteas' gradual decline to a below-par 239/9.

The scores: South Africa 239/9 in 50 overs (Heinrich Klaasen 86; Salman Agha 4/32) lost to Pakistan 242/7 in 49.3 overs (Saim Ayub 109, Salman 82 not out); **PoM:** Salman.

Bangladesh seals T20I series against the West Indies

Bangladesh defended a modest total of 129 to claim a series-clinching 27-run victory over the West Indies in the second T20 International of a three-match series at the Arnos Vale Stadium in St. Vincent on Tuesday.

The scores: Bangladesh 129/7 in 20 overs (Shamim 35 n.o., Motie 2/25) bt West Indies 102 in 18.3 overs (Chase 32, Akeal Hosein 31, Taskin 3/16, Rishad 2/12, Mahedi 2/20).

Perez leaves Red Bull after a season of struggles

Red Bull announced on Wednesday that Sergio Perez has departed the Formula One team after four seasons. Perez helped the team earn two constructors' titles and completed a drivers' standing one-two with Max Verstappen in 2023. During the 2024 season, Perez and Red Bull signed a contract extension (until 2026). However, his form dropped drastically after that deal.

Rain has the final say in Gabba Test; all to play for in the final two matches

Last-wicket stand between Bumrah-Akash plays a big part in India staying afloat; weather gods prevent Australia from having a crack at the tourists

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

A Wednesday of pouring rain, crumbling wickets and runs, both blitzkrieg and tentative, added some pulsating drama to a contest that finally ended in a draw. The third Test's fifth and final day wound to an early close with damp weather forcing a quick covering of the pitch here at the Gabba.

Pursuing 275 in the second innings for a miraculous triumph, India started cautiously even as Yashasvi Jaiswal and K.L. Rahul were alive to the quick single. Just as the score moved to eight for no loss, dark clouds swept across and the players retreated to the pavilion, never to return again.

Earlier, nursing a lead of 185, keen to force a result and with one eye on the dark skies, Australia stepped out with an aggressive veneer in the second innings. The script was soon torn between quick runs and rapid wickets. Usman Khawaja launched an airy drive and heard his timber rattle while Jasprit Bumrah exulted. The latter then drew an edge from Marnus Labuschagne. Nathan McSweeney chased a wide delivery from Akash Deep, who also scalped Mitchell Marsh. Travis Head hit a few but he and Steve Smith fell to Mohammed Siraj. Alex Carey and Pat Cummins then swung their bats around as the quest for quick runs continued. Finally a bit after Bumrah induced a miscued shot from Cummins, the latter implemented the declaration at 89 for seven.

In the morning, a gloomy one with clouds billowing around, India resumed its first innings at the overnight 252 for nine. The visitors' first innings stretched for another four overs. Bumrah was all straight bat and the odd missed sweep.

Akash, meanwhile, seemed eager to press ahead. This trait also meant that he had overstepped a little while countering Head and when Carey whipped the bails, the batter's feet was on the crease and not behind.

Rightly, he was adjudged stumped and India finished with 260 but by then the last-wicket pair had added 47 vital runs, a critical yield that helped India avoid the follow-on and stay afloat in the series.

Just as the decks were cleared for Australia's second innings, match officials and ground authorities instructed the players and the sparse audience to step back as thunderstorms were expected. There was a stillness in the air and some sunshine too but the forecast turned real as the rain descended, slow and intense by turns.

In *The God of Small Things*, Arundhati Roy wrote: "Slanting silver ropes slammed into loose earth, ploughing it up like gunfire." The wet lines at Brisbane, may not have matched the fictional ones in Kerala, which Roy referred to, but this was a steady accompaniment, not an interlude, never a cameo, but an insistent brooding presence all through the clash. And one that perhaps had the last word in a Test that constantly raised the 'what-if' question.

Spoilsport: Australian players walk off the field for one final time in the third Test. AFP

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA — 1ST INNINGS
445 in 117.1 overs

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Marsh b Starc 4 *(2b, 1x4)*, K.L. Rahul c Smith b Lyon 84 *(139b, 8x4)*, Shubman Gill c Marsh b Starc 1 *(3b)*, Virat Kohli c Carey b Hazlewood 3 *(16b)*, Rishabh Pant c Carey b Cummins 9 *(12b)*, Rohit Sharma c Carey b Cummins 10 *(27b, 2x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja c Marsh b Cummins 77 *(123b, 7x4, 1x6)*, Nitish Kumar b Cummins 16 *(61b, 1x4)*, Mohammed Siraj c Carey b Starc 1 *(11b)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 10 *(38b, 1x6)*, Akash Deep st. Carey b Head 31 *(44b, 2x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-8, lb-2, nb-3, w-1): 14; Total (in 78.5 overs): 260.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-4 (Jaiswal, 0.2 overs), 2-6 (Gill, 2.1), 3-22 (Kohli, 7.2), 4-44 (Pant, 13.5), 5-74 (Rohit, 23.3), 6-141 (Rahul, 42.3), 7-194 (Nitish, 59.5), 8-201 (Siraj, 62.6), 9-213 (Jadeja, 65.6).

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 24-3-83-3, Hazlewood 6-2-22-1, Cummins 22-2-81-4, Lyon 23-1-55-1, Head 1.5-0-3-1, Marsh 2-0-6-0.

AUSTRALIA — 2ND INNINGS
Nathan McSweeney c Pant b Akash 4 *(25b)*, Usman Khawaja b Bumrah 8 *(7b, 2x4)*, Marnus Labuschagne c Pant b Bumrah 1 *(9b)*, Mitchell Marsh c Pant b Akash 2 *(13b)*, Travis Head c Pant b Siraj 17 *(19b, 2x4)*, Steve Smith c Pant b Siraj 4 *(5b, 1x4)*, Alex Carey (not out) 20 *(20b, 2x4)*, Pat Cummins c Rahul b Bumrah 22 *(10b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Mitchell Starc (not out) 2 *(2b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-6, nb-2): 9; Total (for seven wkts., decl. in 18 overs): 89.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-11 (Khawaja, 2.4), 2-16 (Labuschagne, 6.1), 3-16 (McSweeney, 7.3), 4-28 (Marsh, 9.5), 5-33 (Smith, 10.6), 6-60 (Head, 14.4), 7-85 (Cummins, 17.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 6-1-18-3, Siraj 7-0-36-2, Akash 5-1-28-2.

INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Yashasvi Jaiswal (not out) 4 *(6b)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 4 *(7b)*; Total (for no loss in 2.1 overs): 8.

AUSTRALIA BOWLING
Starc 1.1-0-4-0, Cummins 1-0-4-0.

Match drawn. Five-match series level 1-1.

Player-of-the-Match: Head.

Fourth Test: December 26 to 30, Melbourne.

Match starts at 5 a.m. IST.

Skipper Rohit happy to see the batters fight hard

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

Caught up in the aftermath of R. Ashwin's retirement, it took a while for Rohit Sharma to reflect on the third Test here at the Gabba on Wednesday. The Indian skipper took his time but once he got into the groove, there was no holding back.

After snatching a draw in a rain-marred game, Rohit said: "As a team we don't give up easily. We keep fighting. When we came to bowl in the second innings, we came with the intensity of seeing them (Australia) all out for 60, 70." Rohit did not flinch while holding a mirror to himself: "I have not batted well and there is no harm in accepting that. Sometimes, these numbers can tell you that it's been a while since I got big runs, but for a person like me, it's about how I feel in my mind and what kind of preparation I am doing."

Lauding Ravindra Jadeja, Rohit said: "He was disappointed with his bowling but that can happen. It's not easy to not play and then suddenly play. He showed his value with the bat. We needed somebody to stitch a partnership and take the game as deep as possible, Jadeja was there to do that."

Asked about the mini-celebrations in the dressing room after Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep helped avoid the follow-on, he replied: "It was a little victory for us. Eventually, we ended up with a draw. We saw two guys fighting for the team and we were really happy."

Precious: Jadeja produced a timely half-century. ANI

Cummins admits it was a 'frustrating game'

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

A gripping but weather-beaten Test that wound to a draw was nearly relegated to the background once R. Ashwin announced his retirement.

Just as stunned cricket writers grappled with their thoughts, Pat Cummins strode into the press-conference hall at the Gabba here on Wednesday evening.

With the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series still very much in the balance at 1-1 after the conclusion of the third Test, the Australian captain stressed that his team has a lot to feel good about this game: "The runs and partnership in the first innings, to score 445, to bowl out India for 260, they were all good signs. I don't think I have ever played a game with so many (rain) breaks and yeah it was frustrating."

Cummins was also quick to stress that not much should be read into the way Australia batted (89 for seven) in its second outing: "Well I would dismiss that. It was all part of a plan and I was happy to see the way the batters stepped out. We get a bit of a break now and then we will get to Melbourne."

Queried about Josh Hazlewood's recurring injuries, Cummins said: "It is a bit of a shame and Josh will miss the rest of the series. I am sure Mitch (Marsh) will get a crack as the fourth seamer in the next few games."

Unperturbed: Cummins did not read too much into Australia's collapse. AFP

It's Karnataka vs Railways men while Gujarat women take on Haryana

NATIONAL BADMINTON

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Karnataka will take on Railways in the men's team final on Thursday at the Senior National Badminton Championship being held at the KBA courts here. In the women's summit clash, Gujarat will meet Haryana.

In the semifinals on Wednesday, Karnataka men beat Chhattisgarh 3-1, with S. Bhargav and M. Raghu winning their singles matches and the pair of Nicholas Nathan Raj and Tushar Suveer the doubles.

After D.S. Saneeth lost the first match for the hosts against Rounak Chouhan despite putting up a commendable fight in the second game, the onus was on Bhargav to get his team back on track. The 23-year-old did just that, beating Yash Yogi in straight games.

From there on, it was smooth sailing for Karnataka, and it would now be eager to make amends for the lost opportunity last edition when it lost to Airports Authority of India in the final.

The other last-four tie saw a blow-out 3-0 win for Railways over RBI, with only the Chirag Sen-Priyanshu Rajawat singles match resembling a close contest. Chirag had quite a task, for Rajawat is No. 34 in the World and has beaten Anders Antonsen (now World No.2) this season.

But the Railways athlete cracked open Rajawat's tight defence and managed to keep the fleet-footed Gopichand Academy trainee in check to edge the match 21-18, 21-19. Ayush Shetty then dispatched Kiran George easily before the doubles duo of K. Pruthvi Roy and K. Sai Pratheek carried Railways into the title-decider.

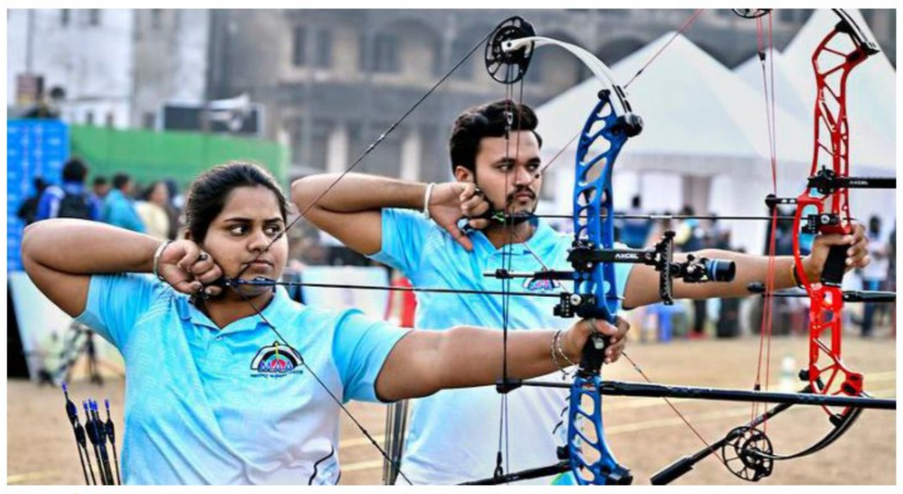
On to the final! Chirag cracked open Rajawat's tight defence in Railways' easy win over RBI; Bhargav set the wheels in motion for Karnataka against Chhattisgarh. K. MURALI KUMAR

The results: Semifinals:

Men: Karnataka bt Chhattisgarh 3-1 (D.S. Saneeth lost to Rounak Chouhan 14-21, 20-22; S. Bhargav bt Yash Yogi 21-8, 21-19; Nicholas Nathan Raj & Tushar Suveer bt Ishaan Bhatnagar & Ayush Makhija 21-18, 21-15; M. Raghu bt Harshit Thakur 21-10, 21-8). **Railways bt RBI 3-0** (Chirag Sen bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-18, 21-19; Ayush Shetty bt Kiran George 21-10, 21-12; K. Pruthvi Roy & K. Sai Pratheek bt Anjan Buragohain & Ranjan Buragohain 21-17, 21-17).

Women: Gujarat bt Uttarakhand 3-1 (Tasnim Mir bt Anya Chauhan 21-9, 21-6; Adita Rao bt Anushka Juyal 21-11, 21-8; Shenan Christian & Anjali Rawat lost to Gayatri Rawat & Mansa Rawat 14-21, 21-19, 15-21; Shreya Lele bt Akshita Manral 21-18, 21-17). **Haryana bt Railways 3-0** (Devika Sihag 21-10, 21-15; Unnati Hooda bt Vaidehi Choudhari 21-16, 21-18; Unnati & Anmol Kharb bt Vaidehi & Kanika Kanwal 21-8, 21-11).

Quarterfinals: Men: Chhattisgarh bt Uttarakhand 3-1; RBI bt Arunachal Pradesh 3-0; Railways bt Rajasthan 3-0; **Women:** Haryana bt Karnataka 3-2; Uttarakhand bt RBI 3-1; Gujarat bt Assam 3-1.



Dynamic duo: Madhura and Fuge were at the forefront of Maharashtra's stunning show. R. RAGU

Maharashtra shows its class

After disappointing results in the early events, the State's archers turn it around and enter the finals of compound men, women and team events

NATIONAL ARCHERY

Y.B. Sarangi
JAMSHEDPUR

Led by Prathamesh Fuge and Madhura Dhamangaonkar, Maharashtra's archers shrugged off their disappointing performances in individual competitions to enter the finals of compound men, women and team events in the National archery championships at the Gopal Maidan here on Wednesday.

Maharashtra, studded with international archers, including World champions Ojas Deotale, Aditi Swami and World Cup gold medallist Fuge, witnessed disheartening moments in the morning as none from the State could reach the semifinals.

However, Maharashtra's archers bounced back later in the day.

The men's team, comprising Fuge, Sahil Jadhav and Tejbir Singh Jahagirdar, defeated Jharkhand 235-223, Rajasthan 232-230, Haryana 236-229 to set up a title clash with Services.

The women's team, consisting of Madhura, Aditi and Prithika Pradeep, beat Manipur 235-225, Delhi 230-228 and Railways 229-224. It will meet Rajasthan.

Good coordination

Training partners Madhura and Fuge showed good coordination and shot consistently well to eliminate Jharkhand 157-153, Services 159-154 and Rajasthan 159-153 to reach the mixed team final.

They will face the Punjab pair of Parneet Kaur, who survived a scare in the first round of the women's individual elimination phase, edging past Goa's Anuradha Boruah 140-140 (shoot-off: X*-X) by shooting closer to the centre in the tie-breaker, and Uday Kamboj - the finalists in individual events.

Abhishek Sharma displayed his composure as he scored a perfect 150 in succession in the quarterfinals and semifinals on his way to the men's individual final.

The results:

Compound: Semifinals:

Individual: Men: Abhishek Verma (Del) bt Aman Saini (Del) 150-148, Uday Kamboj (Pun) bt Simranjot Singh (Rlys) 148-145; **Women:** Parneet Kaur (Pun) bt Swati Dudhwal (Raj) 149-144, Srishti Singh (MP) bt Jasveer Kaur (Rlys) 144-144 (shoot-off 9*-9).

Team: Men: Services bt Punjab 234-230, Maharashtra bt Haryana 236-229.

Women: Rajasthan bt Punjab 231-230, Maharashtra bt Railways 229-224; **Mixed:** Maharashtra bt Rajasthan 159-153, Punjab bt Manipur 159-156.

Deepika, Atanu go back to the drawing board

Y.B. Sarangi
JAMSHEDPUR

Nurturing the dream of winning an Olympic medal in Los Angeles 2028, the Olympian archer duo of Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das have roped in former international archer Rahul Banerjee as their coach.

Deepika has competed in four Olympics and Atanu has featured in two, though without any success.

Even though both belong to Kolkata, Atanu understood Rahul's coaching philosophy only recently. "I and Rahul *bhai* were commentating during the Olympics, when we discussed a few things. I liked his ideas, and we started working (in August). Then Deepika joined," Atanu told *The Hindu* at the National archery championships here.

New insight: Coach Rahul hopes that his inputs will help Atanu and Deepika. R. RAGU

"We are approaching the sport with a different mindset. We are doing gap analysis and pushing ourselves against different challenges. The hunger and dream to win an Olympic medal has not diminished," said Atanu.

Deepika added, "Rahul *bhai* has identified mistakes which others could not. It's a good start, and I am enjoying it. I could not win an Olympics medal due to my mistakes."

A medallist in elite international events, Rahul, the younger brother of decorated archer Dola Banerjee, could relate to Deepika-Atanu's hunger. "We had similar thoughts. I have won medals almost everywhere except for the Olympics," said Rahul, who runs a fully-equipped facility, DRB Academy, jointly with Dola, in Kolkata.

"There were multiple pieces of advice. For example, Deepika has this issue of 'let-down' (drawing the bowstring but not being able to complete the shot) during ranking rounds. It leads to hurrying everything to finish within the stipulated time. We have sorted out her 'blinking' issue. Atanu had an issue with his left hand.

"The training prepares them well so that they don't feel the pressure at the Olympics. There was a gap, and I am bridging that gap. This is the first trial of what we have done so far".

Plenty to ponder for the Women in Blue

WI IN IND

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

Doubts over Harmanpreet Kaur's availability, middle-order muddle and sloppy fielding have left India with plenty to ponder ahead of its series-deciding women's T20I fixture against the West Indies.

Despite starting the three-match series on a winning note, the Women in Blue lost the plot in the second fixture, allowing the visitor to draw level.

With heavy dew settling in, none of the Indian bowlers could pose any threat as Hayley Matthews and Qiana Joseph went on a rampage.

In the last couple of games at the DY Patil Stadium, toss has been a factor, and with hardly any turnaround time, the home team needs to regroup and fix the weak links.

Lone battle: Smriti will need a bit more support from her fellow batters. EMMANUAL YOGINI

While it has been a remarkable outing so far for stand-in-captain Smriti Mandhana – with a couple of fifty-plus scores – the middle-order has been inconsistent, and Harmanpreet's absence has only made matters difficult.

In the last game, India elevated the seasoned Deepti Sharma to 'provide a cushion' to the young and inexperienced batters like Raghavi Bist, but she failed to make an impact. Things would have gone haywire for India had Richa Ghosh not come up with that quick cameo; and in the series-decider on Thursday, India needs to be more proactive with power-hitting.

Despite an impressive start to the series, medium fast bowler Titas Sadhu struggled and as West Indies captain Matthews aims to win a series in India for the first time, the Indian bowlers need to step up and think out of the box to negate the dew factor.

The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Nandini Kashyap, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Uma Chetry, Deepti Sharma, Sajeevan Sajana, Raghvi Bist, Renuka Thakur, Priya Mishra, Titas Sadhu, Saima Thakor, Minnu Mani, Radha Yadav.

West Indies: Hayley Matthews (Capt.), Shemaine Campbelle, Aaliyah Alleyne, Shamilia Connell, Nerissa Crafton, Deandra Dottin, Afy Fletcher, Shabika Gajnabi, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Karishma Ramharack, Rashada Williams.

Match starts at 7:00 p.m.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-10914

E-Tender Enq. No. 584/P-1/EMP-W-12870 dated 05.12.2024.

Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_131545_1 for Routine Cleaning of Tech & Non-Tech Buildings and boiler area including toilets and cleaning of sewerage line at GGSSTP, Ropar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 17.12.2024 from 02:00 PM onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

RTP-133/24 **76155/12/3732/2023/40046**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/AEE(C)/2024-25/2854-57 Date: 16.12.2024

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

KPTCL invites bids from the eligible bidders through **"KPP" Portal to execute 12 Nos. of Civil Works,** under the jurisdiction of the Superintending Engineer(Ele), Transmission(Maint), Ramanagara Circle, KPTCL, Bengaluru.

The Detailed Notification regarding details of work, general conditions of contract, NIT, Instructions to Tenderers(ITT), EMD, SD, etc., can be obtained by website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **'E Procurement KPTCL'** on or after **23.12.2024**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Transmission (Maint.), Ramanagara Circle, Opp. R.R. Nagar Metro Station, Pantharapalya, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-560 039, Ph: 080-29620155.

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/2024-25/2125 Date: 17.12.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites Supply of materials tender standard document KG-1, KG-2 & KG-3 under MGNREGA for the year 2023-24 for 10 works for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs. 6.28 lakhs Maximum 88.93 lakhs Total Rs:206.17 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-8046010000, +91- 8068948777 or office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga as dates below:-

(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date: 26.12.2024: Time: 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 27.12.2024: Time: 16.00 **(3)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 30.12.2024: Time: 16.01 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date: 31.12.2024: Time: 16.02

Bi Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel:+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.442:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2024-25

Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division No.194, T. Mariyappa Road, Opp to Lalbagh South Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bengaluru-560 011.

No. EE/CKP/KPPP/06/2024-25 Date: 17.12.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Single & Two Cover) Through GOK KPP Portal only
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, (Chickpete Division), BBMP, Benglauru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work / Category
1.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath work in Ward No.160 Dharmarayaswamy Temple Ward of Dharmarayaswamy Temple Sub division for the year 2024-25. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD (in ₹.): 1,10,000/-. (Others).**
2.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath work in Ward No. 161 Silver Jublie Park Ward of Dharmarayaswamy Temple Sub division for the year 2024-25. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD (in ₹.): 1,10,000/-. (Others).**
3.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath work in Ward No. 162, Sunkenahalli Ward of Dharmarayaswamy Temple Sub division for the year 2024-25. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD (in ₹.): 1,10,000/-. (Others).**
4.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath work in Ward No. 163, V. V. Puram Ward of Vishweshwarapuram Sub division for the year 2024-25. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD (in ₹.): 55,000/-. (SC).**
5.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath work in Ward No. 164, Hombegowdanagara Ward of Vishweshwarapuram Sub division for the year 2024-25. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD (in ₹.): 1,10,000/-. (Others).**
6.	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath work in Ward No. 165, B. Venkatareddy Nagara Ward of Vishweshwarapuram Sub division for the year 2024-25. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD (in ₹.): 55,000/-. (SC).**
7.	Providing Pothole Filling to Roads in Dharmarayaswamy Temple Sub divsion for the year of 2024-25. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 45.00, EMD (in ₹.): 90,000/-. (Others).**
8.	Providing Pothole Filling to Roads in Visweshwarapuram Sub divsion for the year of 2024-25. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 45.00, EMD (in ₹.): 90,000/-. (Others).**
9.	Repairs & Maintenance of BBMP Dasappa Hospital Quarters building in Chickpete Constituency. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 5.00, EMD (in ₹.): 6,250/-. (ST).**
10.	Providing Rain Water Harvesting to BBMP Buildings in Chickpete Constituency. **Amount Put to tender (₹. in Lakhs): 7.00, EMD (in ₹.): 17,500/-. (Others).**

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre bid meeting will be held on **03-01-2025 at 3:00 p.m. (2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **17-01-2025 upto 4:00 p.m. (3)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **18-01-2025 by 4:30 p.m. (4)** Date of Financial bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical bid approved.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chickpet Division, BBMP.

DEPARTMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS
Podium Block, V.V.Tower, Ground Floor, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi Road, Bangalore 560 001. Telephone No. 080-22866066, 080-22866046
Email Address: **dirdwdscka@gmail.com, dir-dwds-ka@nic.in**

Tender Notification No: DEDSC/JDE/C3/16/2024-25 Dated: 17-12-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

Tender is invited by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) from the original manufacturers or their authorized dealers for supply of braille kits for the students with Visual Impairment for the year 2024-25 to the Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens. The interested bidders may see further details and may login in website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The tender can be submitted on or before **01-01-2025 till 4:30 PM.** The technical bid will be opened on **02-01-2025 at 5:00 PM** and the financial bid will be opened on **07-01-2025 at 3:00 PM.** Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and retender without giving any reasons. The details can be obtained from the Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V.Tower, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No:080-22866066, 28860907. For more info please see department website **www.dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director,
Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3840/Zen/2023-24

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project - Central-1, Annex-2 Building, BBMP Head Office, Bengaluru-560002

No. EE/PC-1/TEND/02/2024-25 Date: 18.12.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - 2nd Call
Short Term Tender Notification (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Project - Central - 1, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Construction of Nursery and Primary School at Austin Town, Bengaluru.	187.48
	EMD Amount : Rs. 1.874 lakhs. (Rs. 1.00 lakh through e-Portal & Remaining as specified in the bid document).	

Period of completion : **11 Months.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 19.12.2024. (2)** Date of submission of tender through online : **on or before 17.30 hrs. on 02.01.2025. (3)** Last date for receipt of queries : **23.12.2024 upto 17.30 hrs. in the above office. (4)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting : **27.12.2024 at 16.00 hrs. in the office of the Chief Engineer, Project-Central, BBMP. (5)** Date of opening of Technical Bids : **03.01.2025 at 17.30 hrs.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Project - Central-1

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)

Ref: Tender notification No: EE/ UTP/PB-3/2024-25/2027,2028,2029&2030 Dated: 17-12-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal system)

Percentage tenders are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore, from eligible bidders who satisfies through GO KPPP platform shall submit the bid as per Ref in two cover Electronic document system for one Work under the head of account 4701 for Tender amount of Rs.931.37 Lakhs (without GST)Indent No1456,1457,1458 & 1459 call-3 The details is as follows:

(1)The contractor can have access to e tender documents for above Tenders From:17-12-2024 upto 26-12-2024 5-00 pm (2) Last Date and time for tender queries before 21-12-2024 Upto 04.00 PM (3) Technical Bid will be opened On 27-12-2024 @05-30PM at office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, UTP Division, Ranebennur. Any changes made in the said Notification Corrected /Corrigendum's will be uploaded in the KPP portal. The Tender calling authority reserves the right to accept or cancel the said tender at any time without any information.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Dn, Ranebennur.

1254

Agricultural Produce Market Committee, Shivamogga

Sagar Road, Shivamogga-577204,
Off. Ph.: 08182-250338, AEE Off. Ph.No.: 08182-250173
Tender Notice No.: APMC/S/Development/1511/2024-25
Date: 12.12.2024

Brief Tender Notice (Through KPP Portal of GoK)

Tender is invited through e-procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act as per Standard Tender Document-KW-4 from eligible K.W-4contractors registered in Public Works Department for Painting works of C and D Group workers Quarters, 3 Nos. Check Posts, Raitha Bhavan, Sales building, Development with installation of windows, Electricity Repairs, works of installation of Galvalume Sheets to Sales Building and Godowns owned by the Committee, under Annual Action Plan of the Committee, for the year 2023-24. Total amount of works: Rs. 2,18,47,000.00. E.M.D. Amount: Rs. 3,28,000-00. Last date for submission of filled tender bids through e-portal: 21.01.2025 up to 4.00 PM. Technical Bids will be opened in the office of the Secretary on 22.01.2025 at 4.30 PM.

Pre-Bid Meeting related to the Tender will be held in the office of the Secretary 30.12.2024 at 11.00 AM. Regarding uploading of tender e-portal Helpline 080-22485867 or 080-25501216 can be contacted. For further details visit http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact above address during office hours. If there are any revisions, etc. in the Teneder it will be published only in e-procurement. Separate Newspaper Notice will not be issued.

Sd/- Secretary (Class-1), APMC, Shivamogga **Sd/- Administrative Officer, APMC, Shivamogga**

DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25104/12/1251

INBRIEF

Delightful double for Ankur; Yashaswini triumphs

Ankur Bhattacharjee and Yashaswini Ghorpade claimed the men's and women's singles titles in the UTT National-ranking table tennis championship at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday. Ankur claimed a double, winning the Youth boys' under-19 title.

The results (all finals): Men: Ankur Bhattacharjee (PSPB) bt Manav Thakkar (PSPB) 11-9, 11-6, 11-5, 11-9. **Women:** Yashaswini Ghorpade (PSPB) bt Swastika Ghosh (AAI) 11-9, 5-11, 11-2, 4-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-7. **Under-19: Boys:** Ankur bt P.B. Abhinand (TN) 11-6, 11-2, 13-11, 11-4. **Girls:** Taneesha Kotecha (Mah) bt Pritha Vartikar (Mah) 11-6, 10-12, 12-14, 11-9, 11-2, 9-11, 11-9.

Kho Kho World Cup to start with India-Pakistan clash

India and Pakistan will clash in the opening match of the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup, to be held from January 13 to 19 in New Delhi next month.

Bengal advances after breezing past Rajasthan

J&K holds Manipur with a late goal to secure its first point in the final round this season

SANTOSH TROPHY

Sports Bureau
HYDERABAD

Bengal secured a spot in the quarter-final of the 78th Senior National football championship with a 2-0 win over Rajasthan, while Manipur was held to a 1-1 draw by Jammu & Kashmir at the Deccan Arena here on Wednesday.

Bengal, the 32-time champion has nine points from three matches while Manipur has seven.

J&K earned its first point this season in the final round.

Bengal's Rabilal Mandi (45) opened the scoring just moments before the half-time whistle, as he pulled the trigger from afar to plant his snapshot in the bottom corner.

Mandi essayed a splendid cross from the right which was capitalised by Shreshtha (56) to net the second.

Crucial goal: J&K's equaliser hurt Manipur's prospects. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the other match, Manipur, with two wins against defending champion Services (1-0) and Rajasthan (2-1), needed a win against J & K to make it to the knock-out.

After a strong start, Naoroibam Romen Singh (45+2) put the side in the lead in the first-half injury-time, as he flicked a Shunjanthan Ragui free-kick with his head into the goal.

To the dismay of Manipur, Aakif Javaid scored in injury-time, nodding in a corner, to level the scores.

The results: Manipur 1 (Naoroibam Romen Singh 47) drew with J&K 1 (Aakif Javaid 91). Bengal 2 (Rabilal Mandi 45, Naro Hari Shreshtha 56) bt Rajasthan 0.
Services 3 (Sreyas 15, Kamei 65, Thapa 75) bt Telangana 1 (Yumnam 31).

Kiran wins 50-metre rifle 3-position gold

NATL. SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Kiran Jadhav beat Olympian Aishwary Pratap Tomar by 2.7 points to clinch the gold in the men's 50-metre rifle 3-position event in the 67th National shooting championship at the Madhya Pradesh Academy in Bhopal on Wednesday.

Olympic bronze medallist, Swapnil Kusale had topped qualification by equalling the national record of 593 out of 600, and led field till the 40th shot of the 45-shot final.

However, a string of 9s and an 8 pulled him down to the bronze medal.

Niraj Kumar, Nishan Budha, Babu Singh Panwar, Goldi Gurjar and Rohit Kanyan were the others to make the final and placed fourth to eighth in that order.

Adriyan wins

In the junior section, Adriyan Karmakar rose to the gold with a four-point margin over Kushagra Singh Rajawat.

Rundrankksh Patil who had missed the men's final with his score of 587, made the junior final but placed sixth.

The results:

50m rifle 3-position:

Men: 1. Kiran Jadhav 465.8 (590); 2. Aishwary Pratap Tomar 463.1 (592); 3. Swapnil Kusale 451.8 (593).

Junior men:

1. Adriyan Karmakar 462.0 (586); 2. Kushagra Singh Rajawat 458.0 (586); 3. Deependra Singh Shekhawat 445.6 (581).

LIVE TELECAST

Zimbabwe vs Afghanistan: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 1 p.m.
South Africa vs Pakistan: 2nd ODI, JioCinema, 5.30 p.m.
India Women vs West Indies Women: 3rd T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
West Indies vs Bangladesh: 3rd T20I, FanCode, 5.30 a.m. (Friday)

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Champion: The victorious Ramaiah Institute of Technology basketball squad. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Atharv and Syaamantak do it for Karnataka

Atharv Deshpande and Syaamantak Anirudh helped Karnataka defeat Jammu & Kashmir in their Vijay Merchant Trophy match at Mulapadu.

The scores: Karnataka 348/9 decl. in 86 overs (Arya Gowda 43, Syaamantak Anirudh 146, Atharv Deshpande 54, Dhyaan Hiremath 42, Mohammad Usman 3/87) bt Jammu & Kashmir 75 in 44 overs (Atharv 3/4) and 124 in 45.1 overs (Adhijai Mehta 51, Atharv 5/27, Dhyaan 3/30).

Double delight for Ramaiah Institute of Technology

BENGALURU: Ramaiah Institute of Technology won the men's and women's titles in the CMRIT Cup State level inter-collegiate basketball tournament conducted by CMRIT College.

The results: Finals: Men: Ramaiah Institute of Technology 85 (Joshua 22, Adarsh 20, Srinivas Parthiv 16) bt Christ 54 (Shaun Hooda 24). **Women:** Ramaiah Institute of Technology 32 bt CMRIT College 22 (Sukhi 12).
Most Valuable Player: Men: Srinivas Parthiv (MSRIT); **Women:** Aadhya Aital (MSRIT).

Rohith slams ton

Rohith Reddy (138) powered Swastic Union (1) past Friends Union (1) in the KSCA under-14 inter-club semifinal.

The scores (semifinals): Rajajinagar Cricketers 171/9 in 50 overs (Debraj Nandi 44, Aaryan Nagesh 33, Narasimha 3/30) lost to Social Cricketers 172/3 in 44.5 overs (Athreya Bhat 62, Tanshh Krishna 40, Poonacha Ballachanda 30 n.o.).

Swastic Union (1) 280/6 in 50 overs (Nitish Arya 89, Rohith Reddy 138) bt Friends Union (1) 228 in 43.1 overs (Ansh Kumar 100, Vedanth Vedanarayanan 3/30).

Bengaluru FC thumps Roots FC

Bengaluru FC blanked Roots FC 3-0 in the BDFA Super Division football league on Wednesday.

The results: BFC 3 (C.K. Rashid 33, 42, Shashwat Panwar 45) bt Roots FC 0; Kodagu FC 3 (Lalkrawsmawia 17, T. James 37, Aditya Pratap 40) bt Real Chikkamagaluru FC 0; BUFC 1 (Arun Tamang 76) bt HAL FC 0.

Blues Star downs Ideal Sports

Blues Star HC 'A' whipped Ideal Sports Academy 'A' 5-0 in the KSHA 'B' division hockey league.

The results: Blues Star HC 'A' 5 (Akash Poovanna 2, 3, 48, Govinda 14, Kavan 33) bt Ideal Sports Academy 'A' 0.